

## Ministers see new hope for Ulster in Craig victory

Senior members of the Government believe that Saturday's vote of confidence by the central council of the Vanguard Party in their leader, Mr William Craig, may lead in the long term to Ulster politicians agreeing on a form of regional government from among themselves.

## Way open for changes in loyalist politics

By Christopher Walker

The resounding vote of confidence in Mr William Craig at the Vanguard Party's influential central council on Saturday has opened the way for the most significant realignment in loyalist politics seen in Northern Ireland for nearly two years.

Although there was no official comment yesterday from Northern Ireland Office, for government members are lighted with a result which they believe could lead eventually to an agreed form of regional government, emerging among Ulster's politicians, is recognized that at best is a long-term possibility, most significant factor in Mr Craig's victory is the evidence it produced of a new, more united, and more active support among many Protestant voters for an idea of some form of limited sharing with Roman Catholic politicians.

After a meeting which lasted 24 hours, Mr Craig received a vote of confidence of 28 votes to 7. Nine of the Vanguard members of the Northern Ireland Convention immediately resigned. They remain without a political voice until the next full meeting of the Ulster Unionist Council on Thursday.

At the moment, Mr Craig is in charge of one of the most powerful parties on the floor of the Convention. It is a rumour that only Mr George Thompson, chairman of the Ulster Unionist Association, Mr Glen Barr, the popular spokesman, and Mr (Trumble), a university lecturer and constitutional expert, are loyalist enough to support Mr Craig's victory.

Mr Craig is confident that a long-term his conciliatory approach will prove successful.

He said in Belfast yesterday: "I have no doubt that it will be long before events provide a reading of the situation correct one, and the coalition going to have to reassess its position when they find that a mere majority is not enough."

His main unanswered question is the effect that Mr Craig's victory will have on the loyalist coalition as a whole, particularly on members of the Official Unionist Party, of whom he has said that they are as recent strong-arm as the Rev Ian Paisley, with whom they have been able to identify themselves.

## Fears after the long silence by kidnappers

From A Staff Reporter  
Dublin

The kidnappers of Dr Tiede Herrema, the Dutch industrialist, had last night allowed a further three days to pass since they made contact to discuss a revised set of demands. The lack of communication was in spite of an elaborate mediation network set up in Capuchin friaries scattered throughout the Irish Republic.

Representatives of Dr Herrema's Dutch employers and Father Donald O'Mahoney, the central mediator, fear that the kidnappers may have been frightened off because of the widespread, and legal, use of telephone tapping in the Irish Republic.

The extensive telephone tapping activities and other surveillance devices of the Irish Special Branch have been an open secret for years, and have led the Provisional IRA and other militant republican groups to establish a complex network of couriers to transmit messages and instructions.

A spokesman for Forenka, the Dutch steel company of which Dr Herrema is managing director, told *The Times* yesterday: "We are extremely concerned, as nothing at all has been heard from the kidnappers since last Thursday. We have not been able to establish a reason for this silence, but they may fear that phones are being tapped and that their whereabouts would be revealed."

Father O'Mahoney has warned the kidnappers that the telephone in his Capuchin friary in Church Street, Dublin, may be under police surveillance. He has distributed a letter to the seven Capuchin houses to give the kidnappers a better chance of making contact without being traced.

As tension has mounted over the past few days, there have been growing signs of a conflict of interest between the police, who are pursuing the kidnappers with a force of more than 4,000 men, and the company and the religious mediators, who are striving hard to set up a regular form of contact so that they can begin negotiating.

Mystery surrounded the precise nature of the new demands made by the kidnappers all the weekend. But it was widely understood last night that they were still demanding the release of Miss Rose Bugdale, who is serving a sentence in Limerick prison for terrorist offences.

In spite of denials by Forenka spokesmen, sources close to the Provisional IRA in Dublin also insisted that the kidnappers were demanding free passage out of the country as part of a complex deal which would entail Dr Herrema's being released in his native Holland.

Until contact is reestablished, argument over such details remains academic, as there is no chance of the Irish Government's giving in to the kidnappers' demands. In the words of an official government spokesman, the attitude of ministers on this issue remains "totally and absolutely inflexible."

The Government's stance was repeated on Irish radio yesterday by Dr Fitzgerald, the Foreign Minister. If there were any political concessions, he said, it would immediately open the way to an endless succession of similar demands, which would be disastrous for foreign investment in Ireland.

Police tactics, page 2



Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, and her husband redecorating their new country home, a flat in the grounds of Scotney Castle, Kent, a National Trust property. Mrs Thatcher is 50 today.

## Mr Vorster rejects Smith charge

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, Oct 12

Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, said in a statement tonight that he was not in agreement with the charge by Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, that the Rhodesian settlement talks were "not in accord with the facts."

From experience, I hesitate to comment on such delicate matters on the basis of press reports," he said. "If, however, the reports are correct, they are not in accord with the facts and second with Mr Smith's own repeated statements in the past that he was in full cooperation of Mr and Mrs Vorster."

He added that the setting up of the recent talks at the Victoria Falls had been undertaken with the closest liaison and full cooperation of Mr and Mrs Vorster.

These talks had only started after negotiations between Mr Smith and Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the president in exile of the African National Council (ANC) had reached deadlock.

There would seem to be little basis for Mr Smith's attribution of blame for the collapse of settlement negotiations on Mr Vorster. Before the Victoria Falls talks were announced an impact had been reached, as Mr Vorster stated, and a new confrontation with the nationalists seemed inevitable. It was largely to avert such a clash that South Africa and Zambia decided to intervene.

It is unclear why Mr Smith should have decided to make such a statement at this stage when a resumption of negotiations with the ANC faction led by Mr Joshua Nkomo is a real possibility. Mr Smith is only too aware that Rhodesia is totally dependent on South Africa for its survival.

David Spanier, Diplomatic Correspondent, writes: Mr Smith said in the interview that if Continued on page 7, col 1

## Portugal ready to call up reserve troops to restore 'peace and discipline'

From Michael Krippe  
Lisbon, Oct 12

Admiral Esteiro de Azevedo, the Portuguese Minister, is to broadcast to the nation tomorrow evening. His speech may bring to a head the crisis of confidence in the sixth provisional Government.

The Government, which is pledged to restore order, has faced widespread military dissent and civil unrest since it came to power three weeks ago. This culminated in Oporto last week in clashes between its supporters and left-wing agitators. At least 150 people were injured, many of them by gunfire or petrol bombs.

Calm has returned to the city but a sit-in by left-wing soldiers is continuing in the barracks of an artillery regiment.

Admiral Azevedo has also promised to give the public detailed information about the country's economic difficulties. He may choose tomorrow's speech to do so.

However, the announcement of any austerity measures is likely further to anger the communist-dominated trade unions and put renewed strain on the Government's ability to maintain order.

Perhaps in preparation for further tests of strength, the Revolutionary Council yesterday published a decree law enabling it to call up soldiers on the reserve list. The council said that the decree was necessary because there were not enough troops with the training

deemed necessary to restore "the climate of peace, discipline and tranquillity" demanded by the majority of people.

After a joint meeting of the Revolutionary Council, the supreme body, and Admiral Azevedo's Cabinet on Friday evening, the council issued a statement reaffirming support for the Government and its efforts to restore order.

However, it attributed the military dissent and civil unrest to right-wing agitators rather than left-wing ones, as appears to be the case. It said that there was evidence of manipulation of "progressive political groups" by elements infiltrated from the extreme right. These elements, it said, were attempting to overthrow the sixth Government.

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Socialist Party, and that Portugal is living through the equivalent of both the Russian revolution of 1917 and the student rioting of May 1968 in France.

He predicted that popular discontent would increase at all levels if the authorities failed to solve the serious social and economic problems. Portugal would then be in a situation similar to that in Chile two years ago when a right-wing coup occurred.

In an effort to smooth relations between the two other civilian parties represented in the sixth Government, the Socialists issued a statement today criticizing the centre-left. Popular Democratic Party for its demands that the Communists should withdraw from the Government. They pointed out that this would jeopardize the Government's existence.

The Socialist Party repeated, however, its criticism of the Communists' policy of both belonging to the Government and supporting those who campaigned against it.

Major Melo Antunes, the Foreign Minister, said on his return from the United Nations General Assembly yesterday that the United Nations would have to act in Angola if the three warring liberation movements failed to reach an agreement before November 11, the date set for independence. Portugal, he said, planned to hand over to the Government of National Unity.

In a speech to an international group of young socialists and his colleagues on the council with left-wing sympathies still find the idea of a right-wing demon a more rational one.

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## Wallace plane grounded on flight to Britain

Governor George Wallace of Alabama was delayed on his journey to Britain yesterday when an engine fault grounded his private executive jet in Newfoundland.

Before he left on his first trip to Europe to meet world leaders, the Governor said in Montgomery, Alabama, that he believed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization should be strengthened.

"If there is to be any reduction in Nato troops," he told reporters, "there ought to be a larger reduction in Warsaw Pact troops in view of the distances involved."

Important loser, page 10

## Alpine passes blocked by snow

Bellinzona, Switzerland, Oct 12.—Snow fell over the weekend in the southern Swiss plain for the first time this autumn and blocked several high Alpine passes.

A total of four inches fell in the village of San Bernardino. Snow cut the Nufenen and St. Gotthard passes and snowploughs were out in force to keep the Lukmanier Pass open to traffic.—Reuter.

## Sir Keith again seeks common ground

Sir Keith Joseph, speaking yesterday on the eve of the resumption of Parliament, called again for politicians of all parties to seek out "common ground." He seemed to confirm the impression that Mrs Thatcher is not planning

drastic changes in policy to suit the party's right wing. Our Political Correspondent writes. She is also believed to have no intention of reshuffling her shadow ministers, although there could be some changes at the end of the year. Page 2

## Liberal caution on reform campaign

Mr Christopher Mayhew, the former Labour minister who is the prospective Liberal candidate for Bath, suggested that Liberals consider boycotting the House of Commons in their campaign for electoral reform. But Liberal MPs showed no enthusiasm for the idea yesterday. Page 2

## Franco decree legality queried

A former minister heads a group of Spaniards urging the Congress to examine whether General Franco's decree against terrorism is constitutional. Other reports in Madrid said yesterday that representatives of various Christian Democratic groups would meet in Zaragoza next month. Page 6

## Doctors may act

Some junior hospital doctors may take industrial action over their new contract, although most seem ready to delay such a move. A minister's prediction of health service rationing has been criticized, and overseas doctors, at their first national conference, have been urged to resist exploitation. Page 3

## Fighting slackens

Scattered sniper fire and machine-gun clashes marked Beirut's return to normal after four weeks of civil war between Christian and Muslim extremists, but fighting was halted sufficiently to allow people to leave their homes to obtain food. Page 6

## A capital 'dies'

Prince Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia, found the capital, Phnom Penh, a "dead city" on his recent visit. Its population had fallen from two million to 50,000. He learnt that General Lon Non was lynched when the Khmer Rouge arrived, and other republican leaders were shot. Page 7

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## Pe asks Irish to love their neighbours

By Peter Nichols

Pope took the opportunity of the ceremony for the canonisation of Oliver Plunkett, a 17th-century Irish priest, to call for reconciliation in Ireland. He said that on this occasion the message of love for one's neighbour will be emphasized.

in the minds and hearts of all the beloved Irish people."

Saint Oliver Plunkett, who was Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland, was arrested in 1679, a victim of the allegations of Titus Oates. Accused of raising an army of 70,000 men against Charles II, he was executed at Tyburn on July 11, 1681.

About 6,000 Irishmen included

Cardinal Conway were present at today's ceremony which drew crowds of thousands to be seen in St Peter's Square during this Holy Year. St Oliver is the first Irishman to be declared a saint for more than seven centuries.

The Pope said of the new saint: "In his pastoral activity, his exhortation had been

Continued on page 6, col 1

## Stonehouse's trial hearing begin today

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

A strong left-wing challenge to the predominantly moderate leadership of the electricians' union is being mounted in elections to be held shortly, and the result could rob the union of its general secretary, Mr Frank Chapple, of his assured majority on the executive.

Nominations for the election of seven members to the executive council of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union have closed, and the left-wingers campaigning as "progressives" or "reformists" hope to retain one seat and win at least two more.

If they succeed, the moderate present majority of 8-3 on the executive of the country's sixth-largest union will be cut to a stalemate, with perhaps a single-vote advantage to the left on some issues. None of the "progressives" is a member of the Communist Party. The rules of the EETPU forbid communists holding office.

Final preparations for the elections, which will be by secret postal ballot conducted by the Electoral Reform Society, are under way and voting papers will be sent out after October 27. Polling will take place next month, and the results should be known in early December.

## Left-wing challenge to electricians' leaders

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Five supporters of Mr Chapple's moderate line, including Mr T. Breakell, are seeking re-election, and the left hopes to unseat at least one. They expect Mr W. Gannon, a left-inclined plumber, to keep his seat, and they feel sure of taking the Scottish plumbers' seat.

Most seriously at risk is Mr W. Blair, the north and west London council man. He is once again fighting Mr F. Chapple, chairman of the British Airways Joint Shop Stewards' committee at Heathrow airport, who came within 150 votes of winning in a similar election five years ago. Since then the boundary of the constituency has been changed, though in whose favour is unclear.

Mr Breakell, the EETPU president, who was shouted down by building site militants when he spoke against "gangsterism" in a debate on the jailed Shrewsbury pickets at the TUC conference last month, is defending a majority of about two thousand in the north-west against his militant rival, Mr E. Sabino, a contracting industry electrician.

A veteran of the anti-communist campaign of the early sixties, Mr Breakell is almost certain to beat off the militant challenge, but there could be a serious upset in division number seven, where Mr Bernard Clarke is defending his seat for the first time. He is faced with a powerful candidate, Mr W. Bevan, a shop steward at the British Steel Corporation plant in Port Talbot.

Another electricians' seat being contested is in the Kent/Surrey division, where Mr Eric Hammond is seeking re-election against a challenge from Mr James Atkinson, a "progressive" who works for a government department. A full-time officer, Mr W. Banning, Kent area secretary, is understood also to be in the running.

In East Anglia, the moderate incumbent, Mr Eric Clayton, is defending the seat against Mr J. Atkin, a leading shop steward at Ford's Dagenham plant.

The only left-winger seeking re-election is Mr Gannon, Reading-based council man for plumbers in southern England, whose opponent is expected to be Mr Arthur Mott, a former shop steward in the motor industry who is now head of the union's legal department.

Mr Gannon is not thought to be in danger of losing the seat, and in the contest for a Scottish plumbers' representative the odds are on Mr Hector Barlow, an opponent of the Chapple line. He "won" the seat last year, but the ballot was disallowed because of technical infringements of rule.

The "progressives" are counting on keeping the only seat they are fighting the southern plumbers' seat, and are campaigning to win the south Wales and north-west London electricians' seats, and the Scottish plumbers' seat.

Though the EETPU has been run by moderates since the communist ballot-rigging scandal of the early 1960s, the political trend within the union has shown signs of running the other way in recent years. In last year's executive elections, all three pro-Chapple candidates were defeated by challengers who were to some degree to the left.

If that momentum is maintained in the current round of elections, the strongest bulwark of anti-communism in the Labour movement is threatened. The executive is normally 14-strong, but after the current round of balloting it will have only 12 members for the next two years because voting for two divisions vacated by deaths, Manchester and Northern Ireland, is. I understand, being held open until after the union's rules revision conference in 1977.

Success for the left's campaign would mean a 5-6 split in the executive, a political state of affairs that could seriously hamper Mr Chapple in the carrying out of moderate policies.

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## HOME NEWS

## Mr Walker attacks environment 'sabotage'

By Our Political Correspondent

Instead of taking the lead in formulating new anti-pollution measures for Europe, Britain is about to veto further progress on the programme drawn up by the EEC Commission, Mr Peter Walker, Conservative MP for Worcester and a former Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday.

"This is a disaster for the United Kingdom and for Europe", he said, adding that the Government had sabotaged Britain's prospects of a better environment.

Mr Walker was commenting on the forthcoming meeting of European environment ministers at which Mr Howell, Minister of State in the Department of the Environment, is to oppose proposed strict pollution control measures, which have the support of the other eight countries of the Community.

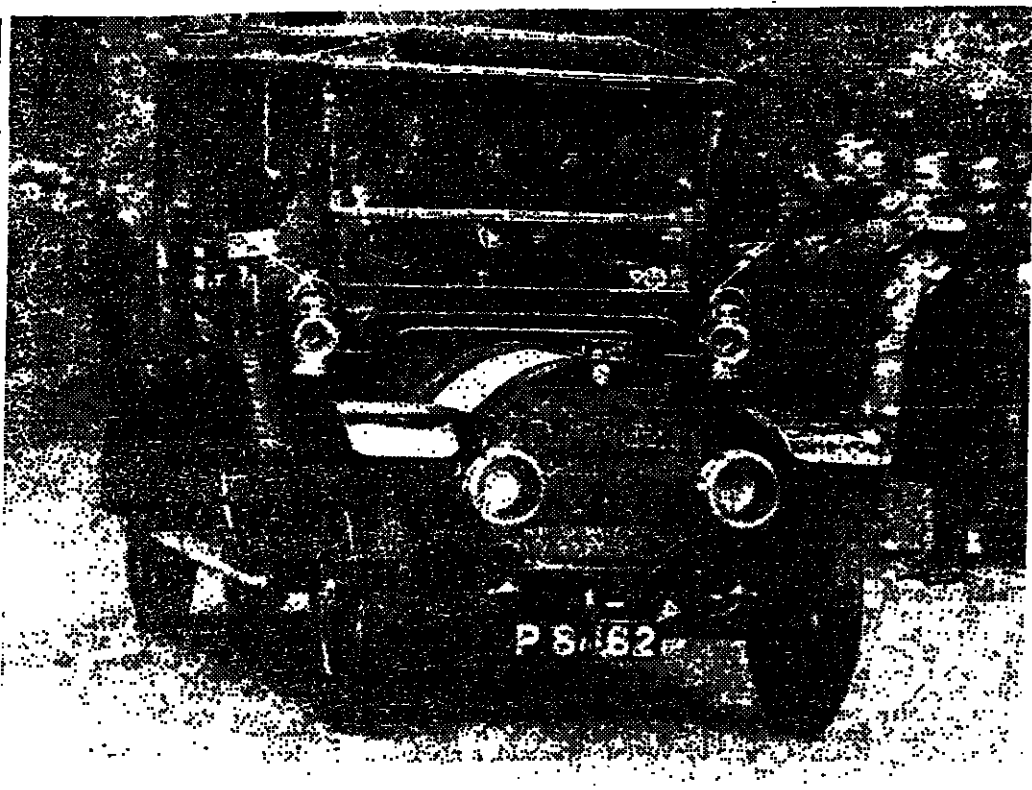
The British Government is arguing for a decision to be delayed allowing more time for the measures to be studied. It believes that the agreement to create standard anti-pollution measures in Europe was to ensure that industries competed equally.

Mr Walker believes that the department of trade and industry, putting the view of industrialists, who do not particularly want extra controls, have managed to reverse the trend current under the Conservatives.

He said: "In 1970 Britain led the world in the battle to create a better environment. We were the first country to create a Department of the Environment. Within two years we were making more progress in cleaning our air and our rivers and clearing derelict land than any nation in the western world."

In every sphere of environmental policy which I was pursuing, in the creation of smokeless zones, the clearance of derelict land, and in the improvement of old houses, the government effort, incredibly, has been halved, and this has affected mostly the areas in which Labour had its strongest support.

"Now the British Government goes on to the international stage and poses as vain, recalcitrant people who want to defer and delay. It gives the impression that we are the leading practitioners for the preservation of pollution. Having sabotaged our prospects of a better environment, the British Government is about to sabotage the efforts of Europe."



A 1910 Mercedes Landaulette in a London procession of more than 80 cars yesterday as a prelude to Wednesday's opening of the Motor Show at Earls Court.

## Attempt to photograph rail vandals

British Rail photographers are travelling on some trains in South Wales in an attempt to identify vandals. A Western Region official said yesterday: "We are experimenting in identifying trespassers on the railways by taking photographs from trains."

The campaign was started after a guard on a Cardiff passenger train was killed by a piece of concrete deliberately dropped from a bridge. There are now more police on stations and on trains on which trouble is expected. Police also travel in the cabs of trains on some lines, with direct radio links to patrol cars.

Scottish Region said that, although acts of vandalism in the first half of this year were down by one third, it still cost the region more than £500,000 a year. "Translated throughout the network, this adds up to probably more than £3m a year, apart from the deaths and injuries to train crews," a British Railways Board official said.

In 1973, the last year for which full details are available, more than three railway accidents were caused each week by malicious acts.

## Christmas postal boycott urged

A call for a Christmas boycott of the Post Office was made yesterday by the National Consumer Protection Council, which is angered at a refusal to introduce a flat-rate 5p charge for Christmas cards.

Mrs Regina Dollar, the council's national organiser, said there were many other ways people could send their seasonal greetings and gifts. "For example, if people speak to their friends, relatives and neighbours, they will find they can organize someone's car or van to deliver parcels and cards." Clubbing together on petrol would almost certainly be cheaper than sending everything by post.

She believes that a boycott could be effective. "The aim must be to break up the Post Office or at least to force them

to think again for next Christmas."

The council had called for the 5p flat rate charge between October 25 and November 25 and for cheaper Christmas telegrams and telephone calls.

MPs have been urged by the council to ask why the Post Office is being allowed to retain a monopoly and why it will not bring back the 5p post for Christmas cards. "Why cannot churches, Scouts, and similar organizations raise money by delivering letters?", the council suggests.

Mrs Dollar said: "We have had positive evidence that many people are going to avoid using the post and deliver their own letters and cards."

Mr Gwyn Roberts, Labour MP for Carmarthen, yesterday urged Sir William Ryland,

## Miss Redgrave claims a victory in union

Vanessa Redgrave, the actress and political activist, last night claimed an initial victory over "a small right-wing clique" after a meeting of members of Equity, the actors' union, at the Young Vic Theatre in London.

Only about 45 members were present at the five-hour "national conference", called in a campaign to prevent proposed rule changes, although the union has about 23,000 members.

Afterwards Miss Redgrave said in a statement that a resolution calling on all Equity members to "come to the forefront in defence of the democratic rights of the membership and in defence of the union" had been passed overwhelmingly.

The issue, in her words, was: "Should a small, right-wing clique dominate the union and transfer Equity into a company union, or should the member-

## MPs' battle on Land Bill reopens today

By Our Political Staff

The parliamentary battle over the Community Land Bill continues in the Commons today when the House resumes after the summer recess to tackle the remaining stages of several Bills and to consider the substantial amendments made to other Bills by the House of Lords.

The report stage and third reading of the Land Bill, which will occupy the Commons today and tomorrow, and many of the controversies which delayed the committee stage will be revived by government amendments tabled during the recess.

The House will also consider the amendments made by the Conservatives' objections to the Bill which, they now say, is so complicated and open to misinterpretation that it should be withdrawn and a fresh start made.

On Wednesday the House will consider the amendments made by the Lords to the Sex Discrimination Bill.

Other debates arranged are: Thursday, remaining stages of the Welsh Development Agency Bill, with a debate on Welsh affairs to follow; Friday, EEC agricultural matters, including the common agricultural

policy, the "green pound", markets, wheat, milk products and fisheries; Monday, October 20, debate on the Finance Committee report on one-parent families.

Later next week, when the Lords amend the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill come before the Commons, Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, will propose the rejection of the press written into the Bill by Lord Goodman's amendment.

Another clash with the Lords is likely on the amendment to the Submarine Pipelines Bill, preventing discrimination over loans, contracts, availability of land, buildings and equipment in favour of the British National Oil Corporation.

Other Bills which have still to complete their passage through Parliament this session are: the Policeholders Protection Bill, the Industry Bill, the Housing Finance (Special Provisions) Bill, which deals with the Clay Cross Bill, the Local Land Bill, the Children Bill and the Hare Coursing Bill.

The council found that a special clause in the Act exempts aircraft from the provisions of the law, and as no mention is made in the legislation about the size of aircraft, 12-inch long, radio-controlled models are as much protected from the anti-noise laws as Jumbo jets.

The only way of legally curbing the flying of private individuals to pursue a civil action through the courts, which could take several months, it was told.

Meanwhile, the council is trying to tackle the matter under planning laws.

Wychavon District Council is asking two local MPs, Mr Peter Walker (Worcester) and Mr Michael Spicer (Worcestershire South) to press for an amendment to the Noise Abatement Act in Parliament because of legal advice that it cannot curb the activities of model aircraft enthusiasts under that measure.

The move has been prompted by complaints from residents in the village of Inkborough, Dorset, and Atch Lench, about model aircraft being flown on Sundays on farmland near their homes.

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## 'Malicious criticism' of comprehensive schools

By Philip Venning, of The Times Educational Supplement

Comprehensive schools were suffering malicious criticism from people who assumed that grammar and direct-grant schools had an unblemished record of success, Professor Maurice Peston, of Queen Mary College, London, said on Saturday.

Professor Peston, who was an adviser to Mr Prentice when he was Secretary of State for Education, was addressing the founding conference of a new pressure group called Programme for Reform in Secondary Education.

He said that comprehensive schools were subjected to attack in ways far beyond anything experienced by schools or other social institutions in the past. The criticism was destructive, malicious and motivated by objectives which were not recognizably educational.

Supporters of comprehensives had shown much greater responsibility by refraining from criticizing selective schools, he said. They had hesitated to expose the personal and social problems that occurred in grammar and direct-

grant schools for fear of making things worse, not because such problems did not exist.

They had been equally cautious about pointing to the academic deficiencies of some of these schools. But what he called the public scandal of the failure of the direct-grant schools had not been exposed.

Professor Peston continued: "These schools select according to academic achievement and motivation. They are supposed to get nothing but the cream, they have everything going for them by way of parental support and public approval, yet a large fraction of their pupils fail to obtain paper qualifications or fail to go on to higher education."

Even one or two schools would be a cause for concern. But as the Public Schools Commission was recently set up, it showed a significant percentage of the cream had gone sour.

The list of complaints about comprehensives was endless, but despite it there is a major success story in that from these schools, which have set themselves a harder task than anything their predecessors contemplated, Professor Peston said.

## After EEC meeting, poultry men see some hope amid the diplomatic jargon

Members of the British Poultry Federation, Mr Peter Lardinois, EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, last week. They emerged to announce, in the deafening jargon of non-communistic diplomacy, that "there was a frank and friendly exchange of views on a variety of matters."

But they also reported that they had drawn a significant comment from Mr Lardinois. It was futile for the British poultry industry to "put its house in order" if the commissioner was saying "that in a matter of a few months he would put forward definite proposals for a European inter-professional poultry federation."

The phrase "putting its own house in order" is often used in talk about the British poultry industry, usually by ministers. Producers of eggs, turkeys and broilers are served by several trade associations, of which more than one believes it is the leading representative.

If a sends a letter of protest to the Minister of Agriculture, B can be relied upon to dispatch a telegram before the day is out, and C will probably stage a demonstration. Ministers usually reply by advising producers to "put their own house in order". In other words, they are expected to exercise self-discipline and avoid tumbling headlessly into costly production when returns are favourable.

But many farmers believe that the most disorderly houses are in the found elsewhere. Mr Ian Ferguson, a Somerset producer, has sent the Government a survey of costs and returns for the past four years, based on figures from the Eggs Authority, United Kingdom

## Agriculture

Hugh Clayton

Egg Producers and a unit of 50,000 birds. He regards imports, either actual or threatened, as being at the centre of difficulty. "It is a question of providing the lower-income family in this country with reasonably priced eggs and poultry meat. Imported eggs do not result in low prices in the shops," Mr Ferguson told me.

He arrives at a more exacting figure for a dozen eggs, based on figures that include annual labour costs of just over 25p. His costings show that returns to farmers were below the cost of production from early in January this year to the middle of September.

His survey begins in the middle of 1974, when the average shop price of a dozen large white eggs was more than 27p, and the farmer received on average less than 18p for all grades. The cost of production was then slightly less than 15p.

Later that year the price in production, to reach less than 13p in October. On Mr Ferguson's figures, prices remained below costs for almost the whole of 1972, and moved ahead in the spring of 1973. In June this year they were as much as 10p a dozen below costs.

Earlier this year the National Farmers' Union held one of its expertly orchestrated rallies to protest against imports of cheap eggs from France, a country in

## Selection of 'Observer' editor next week

By Philip Howard

By the end of next week the Editorial Trust of The Observer will be in position to announce Mr David Astor's successor as editor in one of the most influential and challenging chairs in journalism.

All this week they will continue to consult staff, including non-journalists, and interview candidates for a room in The Observer office in a selection procedure so elaborate that it could justify a puff of white smoke to announce to waiting Fleet Street "We have an editor."

The selection and appointment are entirely in the hands of The Observer Editorial Trust, whose chairman is Lord Goodman. The other members are Sir Mark Turner, the merchant banker, and Sir Hugh Greene, the former Director General of the BBC. But when Mr Astor announced his intention to retire a week ago, the statement said that his successor would be appointed "after consultation with the staff", an innovation in the previously mysterious but clearly undemocratic method of finding an editor for The Observer.

It was explained yesterday by somebody close to the procedure that that does not mean that the trustees will count heads and give the job to the man who gets the most votes from the staff. It means that they will not appoint somebody who is opposed by a majority of the staff.

It was decided not to advertise the post, as The Guardian did when it sought an editor in the new atmosphere of staff participation this summer. It was explained yesterday: "We thought about it, but decided that there was no need to advertise, because the fact that we are looking for an editor must be quite apparent to all possible candidates."

Lord Goodman and Sir Mark Turner will continue to sit in the village of Inkborough, Dorset, and Atch Lench, about model aircraft being flown on Sundays on farmland near their homes.

A number of applications for the post have been received. Three of them are open and announced candidatures. The aspirants are, in alphabetical order: Mr Joe Rogaly, aged 39, an assistant editor of The Financial Times; Mr Anthony Sampson, aged 49, the author and anatomist of Britain, who was on the staff of The Observer from 1955 to 1966; and Mr Donald Trefford, aged 37, deputy editor for the past six years. A fourth front runner wants his name kept secret.

Mr John Cole, who joined The Observer as an assistant editor from The Guardian in the summer, is not a candidate. The name of the man or woman who will sit in the lofty chair of Garvin, Ivor Brown and David Astor will shortly emerge, subject to the informal veto of the editorial staff. No guidelines have been laid down on how to judge that veto, but the trustees are anxious to choose an editor who will be broadly acceptable, and indeed welcome, to those who are going to work with him. He will take over early in the new year.

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## Support for ban on shop sale of fireworks

Most people want fireworks banned or stricter controls over their retail sale, the National Campaign for Firework Reform states.

In a survey of 2,000 people, 89.3 per cent wanted tighter controls on fireworks sales from shops.

Most people interviewed, 78.8 per cent, did not think that raising the age at which a child could buy fireworks from 13 to 16 would substantially reduce accidents. Just over 34 per cent wanted a total ban on shop sales, with fireworks licensed for public displays.

which British farmers were not allowed to sell eggs. The "oufs out" demand on their placards has been largely met, but the industry still does not feel secure.

Some British producers are worried about the possibility of cheap imports from the United States, and the formula for fixing EEC entry prices will be examined at a meeting of civil servants under the auspices of the EEC Commission tomorrow. The National Farmers' Union wants those prices to be reviewed each year, perhaps at the Community's farm price review. The last important revision was 18 months ago, and the adjustment before that operated for several years.

The South Wales poultry committee of the NFU has asked its leaders to suggest to the Government that vouchers for eggs should be issued to shoppers as an alternative to direct state aid to farmers.

Mr Wynford Evans, chairman of the committee, said: "With unemployment at its current level, eggs are of real food value. We are anxious that eggs should be readily available to those who could benefit most from their high nutritional value. Vigorous campaigning for higher returns by dairy producers has diverted attention from the tribulations of other farmers, including those in the poultry sector. It would be easy to assume that improved returns and the absence of demonstrations mean that poultry people are contented. But unlike those in dairying they do not trade with prices fixed for them in the home market, and protected by a combination of premiums and intervention buying."

## Eleven new Marinas. With no increase in price.

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Marina 1.8 Super Saloon  
£1931-67

Marina 1.8 Special Coupé  
£2008-89

Marina 1.8 Special Saloon  
£2068-56

Marina 1.8 GT Coupé  
£2146-95

Marina 1.8 HL Saloon  
£2217-15

Marina 1.8 Super Estate  
£2149-29

All above recommended retail prices including VAT and automatic seat belts. (Number plates and delivery extra.)

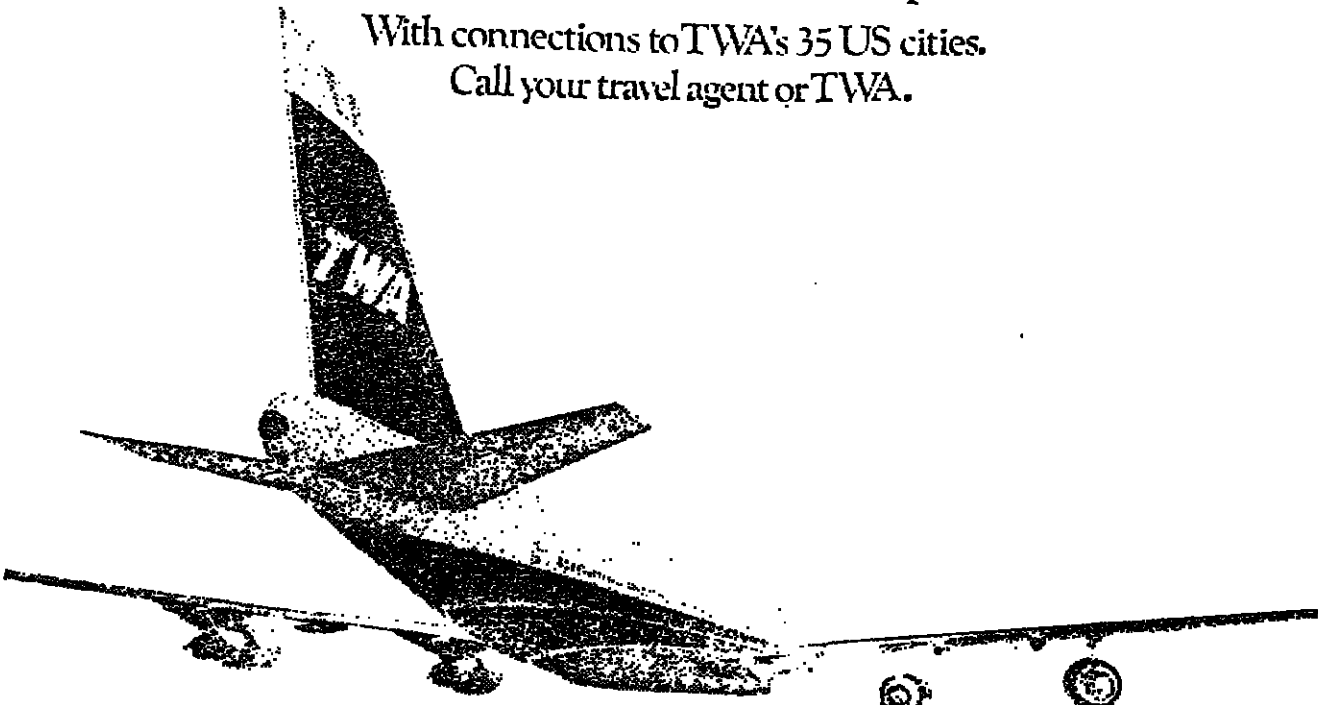
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## HOME NEWS

## Action by some junior doctors feared in contract confusion

By John Roper  
Medical Reporter

In a still confused situation it appeared last night that most junior hospital doctors will wait for clarification before taking industrial action over the implementation of their new contract.

Scattered groups of doctors may take action, possibly restricting hospitals in Plymouth, Stockport, Walsall, Wolverhampton, West Bromwich, Doncaster, Scunthorpe and Grimsby to handling emergency cases.

The new contract, reluctantly accepted in principle by doctors' leaders, was rejected by large groups of the 20,000 doctors. The pricing of the new contract meant that about a third would be worse off, some doctors calculating that their salary would be cut by several hundred pounds.

The Department of Health, under pressure to agree to a "no detriment" clause in the new contract, decided that as a temporary measure junior doctors should revert to their old contract for about six weeks. The 60 per cent who would get more money under the new contract are now disgruntled.

Dr David Bell, chairman of the juniors' staff committee, said yesterday that the department had succeeded in uniting the juniors in a way he never had. There was now dissatisfaction everywhere.

## BMA secretary queries need to 'ration' NHS

By Our Medical Reporter

A doctors' leader last night criticized an analysis of the difficulties in the National Health Service by Dr Owen, Minister of State for Health, which concluded that the service must be rationed.

Dr Derek Stevenson, secretary of the British Medical Association, said the conclusion assumed there was no other way of financing health care to all according to their need. He urged Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, to restore confidence among doctors, and called for an inquiry into the health service.

Dr Owen, in his analysis published yesterday in *The Sunday Times*, accepted that demand for health care could never be fully met, and therefore decisions on "priorities or rationing" must follow.

The Labour Government was having trouble with the doctors, he said. A Tory government would meet opposition from nurses, technicians and ancillary workers.

The Government's aim was to reduce inequalities in the service. Traditionally badly-off areas should get more resources while others should be held back. In some places expensive kidney units or heart surgery could come under scrutiny.

Dr Owen said it was important that the royal colleges should support the Government in replacing the secret distinction awards system (under which consultants get extra money ranging from £2,000 or £3,000 to £10,000 for a few at the top of the scale) with a system of inducement awards to

Dr Angus Ford, chairman of the juniors' negotiating committee, said any industrial action would be unofficial and against the advice of his committee. He thought that the recent evidence of doctors' uncertainties, frustration and concern about emigration and the private practice issue had hardened the juniors' attitude.

That was one of the reasons why the juniors were including in their demands one for an inquiry into the NHS. As far as their contract was concerned, they must ensure that no doctor received less money and that overtime rates, priced at between 20p and 70p an hour, were improved.

The BMA said last night that the juniors' reaction was another illustration of the general malaise in the hospital service, which went far deeper than the dispute over the new contract.

Dr Derek Stevenson, the secretary, said that so far there was no evidence that the Government was rethinking its financial policy or considering whether there were better ways of finding the necessary resources. An inquiry in depth was urgently needed.

Dr Owen, Minister of State for Health and MP for Plymouth, Devonport, plans to go to Plymouth and talk to junior doctors there next Saturday.

Examinations for overseas physicians should be modified, first national conference told

## GMC criticized for 'inhumanity'

By Diana Geddes

The General Medical Council's attitude towards registration of overseas doctors was criticized yesterday by the Overseas Doctors' Association as unjustifiable and inhumane.

Dr A. Karim Admani, consultant physician in Sheffield and chairman of the association's National Conference Committee, said that little was heard of overseas doctors save when they were needed "as a scapegoat for the deficiencies of the desperately sick National Health Service, which is under-financed, under-staffed and hopelessly, inadequately government-planned".

Mounting criticism of overseas doctors by responsible bodies such as the GMC, the British Medical Association, the Department of Health and Social Security, had created great frustration and anxiety among such doctors, whose interests hitherto had not been safeguarded or promoted adequately by any organization or institution, Dr Admani said.

He was speaking yesterday at the first national conference of the Overseas Doctors' Association in London, which was attended by 65 delegates representing the estimated 20,000 overseas doctors in Britain and Northern Ireland, and 35 observers.

A draft constitution was formally adopted at the meeting, and officers were elected. Dr S. Chatterjee, consultant physician in Manchester, was returned unopposed as association

'A scapegoat for the NHS: under-financed, understaffed and hopelessly inadequately Government-planned'

chairman and Dr Admani and Dr A. Akhter were elected vice-chairmen. Dr F. Hashmi, consultant psychiatrist in Birmingham, was unanimously elected president and Dr A. F. Sayeed, general practitioner in Leicester, general secretary.

After criticism earlier this year in the Morrison report and in the press about the degree of proficiency of some overseas doctors, the GMC now requires all doctors with overseas qualifications who wish to practise in Britain to take a Temporary Registration Assessment Board (TRAB) examination, designed to test their linguistic and medical competence.

About four hundred overseas doctors have now sat those examinations, the first of which was held in June. The failure rate has been running at roughly 60 per cent.

Dr Admani said yesterday that while they agreed to some kind of examination, they were concerned about its timing and the way it was conducted. They also felt the linguistic section required modification.

The association proposed that the examination should be conducted after at least three

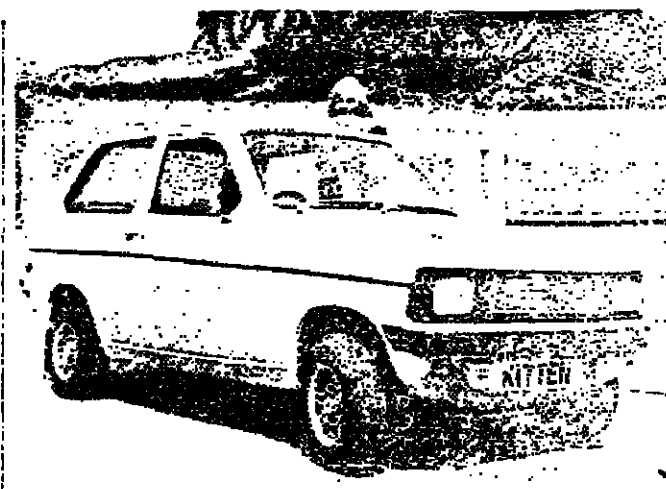
months of clinical attachment and assessment in this country. That would give the newly arrived doctor time to get used to his new cultural and social environment and to familiarize himself with the way medicine was practised in Britain. He would also be able to attend language classes.

If the doctor passed the TRAB examination he should be given a period of limited registration for about three years. If after that he produced a satisfactory certificate from the consultant in the department in which he had worked, he should be granted full registration, Dr Admani said.

He described it as "astounding" that at present doctors who pass the TRAB examination were given only temporary registration for a specific job. About 13,500 overseas doctors in this country were working within the NHS, mostly in very unattractive specialties with poor and inadequate supervision and heavy workloads.

Overseas doctors accounted for 56 per cent of hospital registrars, 60 per cent of senior house officers, 25 per cent of senior registrars, 13 per cent of consultants and 16.5 per cent of general practitioners. "Let us not be exploited", Dr Admani said.

The association's main concern was to look after the interests of the overseas doctors while making sure that the standard of medical practice for which this country had achieved the highest esteem was at all costs maintained.



Reliant's new economy four-seater, the Kitten.

## Makers say Kitten purrs along at 60 miles a gallon

By Peter Wymark

A small car with a claimed fuel consumption of up to 60 miles to the gallon is announced today by the Reliant Motor Company, of Tamworth. Called the Kitten, it is a two-door, four-seater car with a maximum speed of 80 mph.

It is similar in styling and mechanical design to Reliant's three-wheel car, the Robin. It has a non-rusting glass-fibre body and is powered by Reliant's light alloy engine, updated from 730 to 850cc. It is the first new British car of under one litre capacity for more than 10 years.

A feature is a turning circle of only 24ft, less than the legal requirement for a London taxi. The overall length is just under 11ft and the rear bench seat can be folded down to increase luggage space.

The Kitten will be available

in two versions: a saloon, at £1,499, and an estate, at £1,575. They will be on display at the London Motor Show, which opens on Wednesday, and on sale from the first week of December.

Revised Marinas: The first big change in British Leyland's four-year-old Morris Marina range is announced today. The principal change is to the suspension, where anti-roll bars have been fitted front and rear to give better handling and flatter cornering. The steering has been modified for greater feel.

The cars have a new fascia, with a different layout for the instruments and controls, and restyled bumpers and radiator grilles. The level of trim and equipment has been improved throughout the range, particularly at the top end. There is no increase in price.

## Donation of home for Welsh bomb man

When a former saboteur, John Jenkins, aged 42, is released from prison, probably next summer, a home will await him in the heart of the Welsh countryside.

An appeal for "a home for John Jenkins" was launched last weekend to raise £5,000 to renovate a cottage with half an acre of land given anonymously for him in Pwllheli.

After 18 sympathizers had met at a Barmby-Coed hotel, a statement was issued announcing the setting up of the fund and declaring that circulars are to be sent to prominent Welsh men and women.

Mr Jenkins, described in the statement as "the Welsh patriot", was sentenced to 19 years' imprisonment in 1970 on explosives charges after a series of blasts in the period leading to the investiture of the Prince of Wales. He was "operational director" of the so-called KAC, the Movement to Defend Wales.

Treasurer of the fund is the Rev Frederick Jones, Rector of Llanbedrog; secretary, Mrs Edwina Owen of Pwllheli, a former teacher; and chairman, Mr Rhys ap Iwan, an analyst, of Pantglas, in Gwynedd.

Yesterday Mr Jones said the former saboteur's marriage had ended and he needed a home. "From a purely humanitarian point of view, I think it is right that one should help. He is different from most other prisoners because his offences were not committed for his own ends."

## Gallantry medal for scout in sea rescue

Martin Ruddy, aged 14, a scout from Ilfracombe, Devon, has been awarded the Royal National Life-boat Institution bronze medal for gallantry for rescuing four people and a dog from a sinking speedboat off Ilfracombe in June. He is only the third boy to receive the medal.

The medal will be presented to him at the RNLI's annual meeting in London next April, but yesterday he received an inscribed wristwatch at the national scout regatta at Nottingham, from Mr P. Denham Christie, a vice-president of the institution. At the same time it was announced that more than £100,000 had been raised towards the cost of a new life boat.

The official account of the rescue cites that the boy had to make a long hard pull into dangerous and unfamiliar water in a 9ft inflatable dinghy, through a swell to the speedboat, which was in imminent danger of sinking.

It took him 20 minutes to reach the boat, where he found a man, boy and dog in the water, with a woman being dragged below the surface by the sinking craft. The account stated he "acted with complete disregard for his own personal safety, in favour of what he immediately saw to be his duty to others. His initiative, his perseverance and his courage resulted in the saving of at least one life which would otherwise have been lost, and quite probably that of two others, plus the rescue of a boy and a dog."

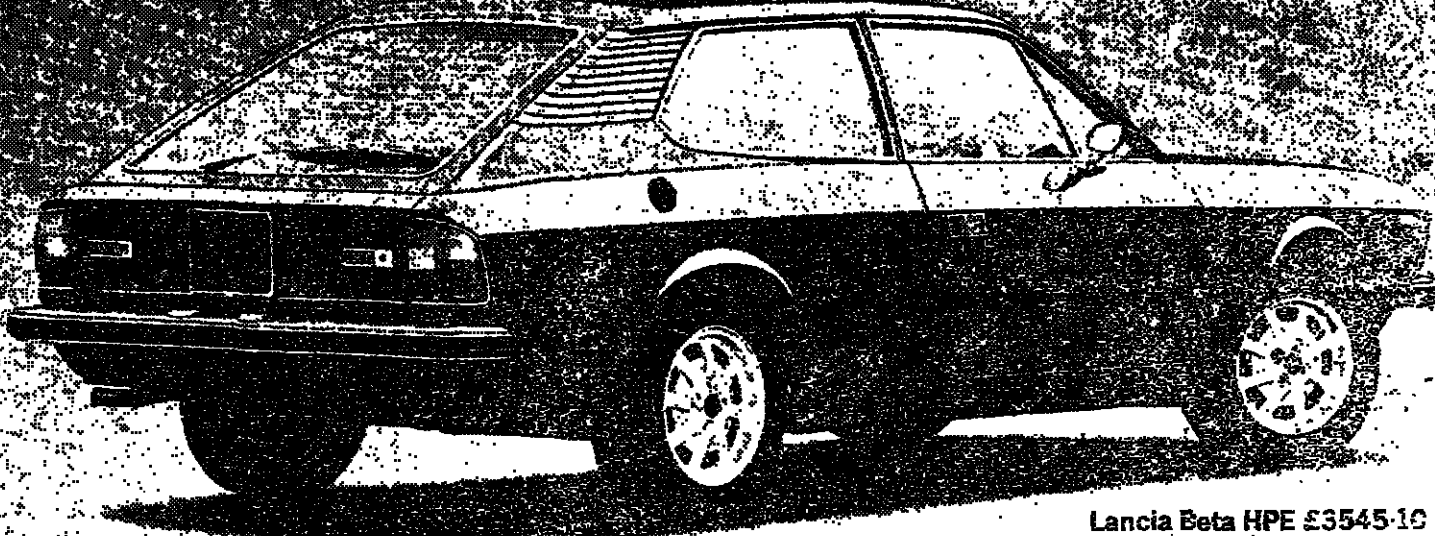
## Nato exercise

About 30,000 Service personnel were being mobilized in a three-week exercise to test the strength of Britain's Nato commitment.

Those taking part include 10,000 Army reservists and territorial, 1,400 of whom have been moved to Germany.

## Balloon record claim

Mr Alan Dorman, aged 26, of Chieveley, Berkshire, claimed a British record for time and distance in a hot air balloon yesterday. He flew for seven hours, 31 minutes and covered 130 miles.



Lancia Beta HPE £3545.10

## The Italian Estate.

The first thing you'll notice about the Lancia Beta HPE is that it resembles your average estate car like a Derby winner resembles a donkey.

Can this sleek, elegant, Italian thoroughbred really be a practical beast of burden?

It can. And it is. That beautifully styled rear end is actually Door No. 3. When lifted, it reveals two folding rear seats that will accommodate three people.

With both seats folded, you have no less than 42 cubic feet to carry all you need.

Or you can fold just one to seat a third passenger, and still have lots of room for luggage.

Which makes the HPE an estate car in anybody's language.

Its performance, however, is far from stately.

The 1600 cc twin overhead cam engine and 5 speed gearbox give the HPE a top speed of 106 mph and exhilarating acceleration.

Whilst front wheel drive, independent suspension all round and precise steering give it the sort of handling that would be the envy of many a sports car.

If all this has started to sound like the sort of estate you could live with, why not take a closer look?

Go along to Stand 121 at the Motor Show, Earls Court, London,

15-25 October. There you will find a whole collection of choice Lancias. Including, on show for the first time in this country, the swift, practical Beta HPE.

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repairs and delivery charges.



Señor Enrique Peñalosa, head of UN conference.

## Vast cities can work well, UN official says

By John Young

Planning Reporter

What was a banker from Bogotá doing on Friday afternoon wandering round a housing estate in the Vauxhall Bridge Road, in London?

Señor Enrique Peñalosa, former administrative manager of the Inter-American Development Bank and now secretary-general of next year's United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, looked once or twice as though even he was not sure of the answer.

Señor Peñalosa was visiting his eighty-fourth country in the last 18 months after a day of talks with British officials was being shown an outstanding sample of modern British housing. He seemed impressed, but happier to talk about the conference, which will be held in Vancouver next June and will be the largest United Nations gathering yet.

The purpose is to discuss means of accommodating and improving the living standards of the world's ever-growing population, particularly in the urban areas where it is

estimated that 80 per cent will live by the year 2025.

"If you can design the right kind of structures, then a city of 75 million people is still going to work", he claims.

Señor Peñalosa maintains that the teeming cities of Asia and Latin America have common problems with their counterparts in Europe.



## WEST EUROPE



The Pope holding on to his biretta as a gust of wind swept St Peter's Square yesterday.

## The Pope eulogizes St Oliver

Continued from page 1

one of pardon and peace. With men of violence he was indeed the advocate of justice and the friend of the oppressed, but he would not compromise with truth or honest violence. He would not substitute another gospel for the Gospel of Peace. And his witness is alive today in the Church, as he insists with the Apostle Peter: "Never pay back one wrong with another."

Pope Paul went on to give a

sketch of the saint's career. In 1647 Oliver Plunkett, with five companions, was conducted to Rome by the well-known and revered Oratorian Francis Scarampi, and for the next 22 years he remained in this city of Peter and Paul. As a student at the Irish College he is an example of fortitude and piety to the seminarians of today.

"For three years, after his ordination to the priesthood in 1654, Oliver Plunkett served as chaplain with the Oratorians at S. Girolamo della Carita and visited the sick in the nearby Hospital of the Holy Spirit. As a minister of Jesus Christ and servant of eternal love he is a pattern of zeal for his brother priests."

"Oliver Plunkett was, above

all, a bishop of the Church of God, serving as Primate of Ireland for 12 years. He was a vigilant preacher of the Catholic faith and champion of the pastoral charity which is fostered in prayer and manifested in solicitude for his brethren in the clergy—that pastoral charity which is expressed in zeal for the Christian instruction of the young, for the promotion of Catholic education, for the consolation of all God's people.

"Drawing strength from the inexhaustible fountain of grace, from the power of the cross—which is in itself eminently contained in the Eucharist, source of all the Church's power, and in which the work of redemption is renewed—he infused into his flock new strength and fresh

hope in time of trial and need."

The Pope concluded his homily with the words: "Let this then be an occasion on which the message of love for one's neighbour will be embossed in the minds and hearts of all the beloved Irish people—this message signed and sealed with a martyr's blood. May love be always in your hearts, and may St Oliver Plunkett be an inspiration to you all."

"And to the whole world we proclaim: 'There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' This is what we have learnt from the Lord, and with profound conviction we announce it to you."

## Ex-minister queries the legality of Gen Franco's terrorism decree

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Oct. 12.—A former minister under General Franco is spearheading a legal campaign to have the General's anti-terrorism decree declared unconstitutional, it was learnt in Madrid today.

Señor Joaquín Ruiz Giménez, president of the National Commission for Justice and Peace, which has links with the Church, and 14 other members of the organization, wrote individual appeals to the standing committee of the Cortes urging it to examine the decree of August 26 for alleged anti-constitutional provisions.

Señor Ruiz Giménez, a former Minister of Education and a prominent lawyer, is also the leader of the technically illegal but more than ever tolerated Christian Democracy movement.

The Madrid Bar Association recently authorized a special study group to determine whether there are constitutional grounds for annulling the decree.

The decree, signed by General Franco, was not even presented to the Cortes for the formality of approval.

The attack on it coincided with signs of increasing tolerance of Christian Democracy. The Madrid newspaper ABC reported today that a meeting between persons with Christian Democratic ideas, pertaining to different tendencies, will take place during the first 10 days of November, probably in Zaragoza. Representatives expected to attend included those from the Spanish Democratic Union, Tactic, a loose association of centre-oriented Christian Democrats; the Christian Democratic Union; and groups from the European Christian Democratic Union.

The Government has ordered Mr. José Gandelman, an American freelance journalist, to leave the country. Mr. Gandelman, who has been in Spain since July, has contributed to the Chicago Daily News, Newsweek magazine and other publications. His presence was said to be a special visit obliging him to leave the country within five days.

It is known that members of the Government were particularly upset by a Newsweek cover story entitled "Franco's last hurra".

Thursday a Swedish television news crew flew back to Stockholm from Alicante after the authorities had temporarily impounded their equipment. The team had arrived three days earlier with the intention of doing a film report, possibly

including interviews with some

Swedish tourists. The operation was returned just before they boarded the aircraft.

Italy has blocked the importation of mussels from Spain, and employees of the French tobacco monopoly have refused to handle Spanish cigarettes.

Spain has also refused to handle mussels from the town of Palma del Rio in southern Spain yesterday as thousands of fans cheered and shouted flamenco chants.

Señor Benítez married Mlle. Marie Marthe Frayssé, the French woman who has lived at his ranch for many years, at a tiny chapel on the outskirts of the town.

A crowd of 20,000 packed the area around the chapel, cheering their hero. When the bridegroom arrived, the fans lifted him to their shoulders and tried to carry him into the chapel as bullfighters are carried out of the ring in triumph. But he managed to persuade his admirers to let him walk to the altar.

El Cordobés retired several years ago but he proposed the week that he would return to the ring next Thursday for a benefit performance in aid of the widows and orphans of policemen killed by political extremists.

Spanish sports writers reacted angrily to the cancellation of a football match in Rome, planned for later this month, between Lazio, the Rome football club, and the Barcelona club, "for security reasons."

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## El Cordobés marries mother of his children

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Oct. 12.—

Manuel Benítez, the bull-fighter known as El Cordobés, married the pregnant mother of his two children when he lived in the town of Palma del Rio in southern Spain yesterday as thousands of fans cheered and shouted flamenco chants.

Señor Benítez married Mlle. Marie Marthe Frayssé, the French woman who has lived at his ranch for many years, at a tiny chapel on the outskirts of the town.

A crowd of 20,000 packed the area around the chapel, cheering their hero. When the bridegroom arrived, the fans lifted him to their shoulders and tried to carry him into the chapel as bullfighters are carried out of the ring in triumph. But he managed to persuade his admirers to let him walk to the altar.

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## EEC energy Commissioner to retire next year

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, Oct. 12.—

Mr. Henri Simonet, the European Commissioner for energy policy, is expected to retire from his post early next year to return to Belgian politics. Mr. Simonet, who is also responsible for the EEC's nuclear supplies and tax harmonization, has apparently not yet fixed an exact date for his departure.

This will depend partly on the progress of various policy decisions on energy and tax questions now in the pipeline and partly on developments in the Belgian Socialist Party, of which he is a leading light.

He joined the Commission as the youngest of five vice-presidents in January, 1973, when Britain, Ireland and Denmark acceded to the Community. He had previously served as Economic Minister in the last Belgian Coalition Government led by Mr. Gaston Eyskens.

It is no secret in Brussels that he has found the task of trying

to persuade member governments to create an EEC energy policy extremely frustrating. His hopes were first dashed by the disarray among the Nine in the wake of the oil crisis, by France's decision to leave the American-inspired International Energy Agency and Britain's insistence on safeguarding its North Sea oil assets.

During his tenure of office at the Commission, which has kept closely in touch with the stream of Belgian politics. When he leaves, he will be able to resume his functions as mayor of Anderlecht, a suburb of Brussels, and as a Socialist member of the Belgian Parliament.

Clearly he hopes to prepare himself for a quick return to power in a new Belgian coalition government. The Socialists are at present in opposition but are known to be looking for the right moment to rejoin a coalition with their former partners, the Social Christians.

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## Controversial week for British ministers in Luxembourg

From David Cross

Brussels, Oct. 12.—The problems confronting farmers and industrialists in Europe and the Commonwealth will come under scrutiny this week when ministers of the Nine meet for four separate series of deliberations in Luxembourg.

At the same time members of the European Parliament will be gathering across the border in Strasbourg for one of their regular monthly sessions.

The unusually heavy workload for the Community will begin in the Grand Duchy tomorrow when ministers responsible for development aid policy review the direction of the EEC overseas aid programme. Mr. Reg Prentice, the British Minister, will be seeking to persuade his partners to earmark a first allocation of £100 million of aid for developing Commonwealth countries in Asia, India and Pakistan.

This initial instalment, which is part of Community plans to grant more than £300 million of aid over the next five years, would be used mainly to en-

courage food production and rural development projects in the poorest parts of the world. Although Mr. Prentice can expect the support of smaller member states like Holland and Denmark, he will undoubtedly run into opposition from the French and the West Germans, who feel that the Community's aid to Asian countries is already running at a generous level.

His agricultural colleague, Mr. Fred Peart, will meanwhile be fighting to protect the interests of hard-pressed dairy farmers in Britain and New Zealand. He is expected to request special arrangements to give British dairy farmers an extra 2p a gallon to avert a milk shortage during the winter months.

In addition he will be seeking to ensure that British households can still buy sufficient quantities of New Zealand butter after 1977 when existing Community arrangements expire. Much of this meeting, which will continue on Tuesday, will be devoted to the problems of French and Italian wine-growers.

The ministers will be making their third attempt in just over a month to organize the wine market in such a way as to disperse the present wine lake and avert future surpluses.

The European Commission, as custodian of the EEC treaties, is to decide whether to sue the French Government to the European Court over its introduction of a tax on Italian wine imports in defiance of Community free trade rules.

A day later transport ministers of the Nine will review such aspects of the Community's incipient transport policy as inland waterways and road transport. The meeting is likely to be fairly uncontroversial with the possible exception of a British request for a further delay in the introduction of tachographs to measure the hours lorry drivers work, and in cuts in drivers' hours.

When Britain joined the Community the Government was granted a delay until the end of this year in joining these controversial EEC rules. However, this time-lag is now considered too tight and the

British will be asking for a further extension of at least an additional two years.

The British will also find themselves in a difficult position on Thursday when, at a meeting of ministers responsible for environment policy, they object to new rules designed to reduce pollution in Europe's lakes, rivers and coastal seas. The rest of the Community wants to impose a strict limit on the discharge of a black list group of highly toxic substances like mercury and cadmium. But under pressure from industry, the British are in favour of a more flexible system of quality objectives for the environment as a whole.

Throughout the week, European parliamentarians will be debating a whole series of issues, including the Community's draft budget for next year. Members of the Parliament, which has certain modest controls over Community expenditure, are likely to take members' governments to task for their recent decision to try about £200 million from the draft originally proposed by the European Commission.

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## OVERSEAS

## Scattered machine-gun clashes as Beirut returns to normal after four weeks of civil war

Beirut, Oct. 12.—Sniper fire and scattered machine-gun clashes marked Beirut's gradual return to normal today after nearly four weeks of civil war between Christian and Muslim militias.

Bulldozers tore down barricades and people began emerging from their homes to queue up for bread and other supplies following 26 days of fighting with rockets, mortars and machine-guns that killed more than 500 people and wounded 1,100.

But machine-gun clashes broke out again in Hadath and Kikwaneh, two predominantly Christian suburbs of Beirut. Police said the security forces intervened with armoured cars and troop carriers. By late afternoon, after several hours of fierce fighting, both areas were reported calm again.

The Beirut radio also warned motorists to avoid the eastern sector of the city, where scattered sniper fire kept tension high between the Muslim and Christian strongholds of Chah and Ain Rummaneh. Elsewhere in the city, life began returning to normal.

Most shops and restaurants remained closed, but for the first time in four weeks pedestrians appeared on the streets.

About 3,000 shops, buildings and homes have been destroyed in central Beirut during the fourth round of sectarian warfare this year.

A 20-man peace council consisting of government officials, community leaders and rival militia leaders was due to meet today to discuss the truce and plans for the reconciliation that must follow if it is not to go the way of the 14 ceasefires that have preceded it since April.

Although there was no guarantee that it would last, several new factors have emerged from the latest round of fighting to strengthen the chances of peace.

The first was the intensity of the last round of fighting and the colossal economic damage it has wrought on both Christian and Muslim communities.

Another factor is that both sides are realizing that their tactical objectives are either unfeasible or undesirable.

For the Christian right, led

by the militant Phalangist Party, the main objective since April has been to force the Army into the fray. The Phalangists reckoned that intervention by the Army, whose officers are predominantly Christians, would tip the military balance their way or at least strengthen their position in future peace talks with the Muslims by demonstrating that they had the Army on their side.

But the Army did get involved in fighting with Muslims in Tripoli when its barracks came under attack last week and it got the worst of it.

The radical left, led by the Socialist leader Mr. Kamal Jumblatt, is now under strong pressure from President Assad of Syria and Mr. Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to lay down its arms. The left has always relied heavily on the Palestinians, and through them, Syria, for support.

Eight Arab League states, three short of a quorum, have approved a request to convene an emergency meeting in Cairo on Wednesday to discuss the Lebanese crisis, the newspaper Al Akhbar said.

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## Sinai talks arranged in neutral zone

Tel Aviv, Oct. 12.—Israeli and Egyptian negotiators will meet in Sinai on October 22 to set machinery in motion for Israel's withdrawal from 2,000 square miles of the desert under the interim peace accord, the military command said today.

The joint commission, comprising high ranking military officers and foreign ministry advisers, will meet at United Nations Post 512 in north-western Sinai in the United Nations buffer zone that separates the Israeli and Egyptian armies.

The talks, reminiscent of the military negotiations held at Kilometer 101 of the Cairo-Suez highway after the first troop disengagement agreement early in 1974, will be attended at times by the chiefs of staff of both sides.

"These talks will be on a smaller scale than those at Kilometer 101", a military spokesman said. They were designed to smooth out any problems that may arise during the handover of territory, he added.—UPI.

Cairo: Egypt, Syria and Libya, the three members of the Confederal National Assembly, will hold talks on settling recent disputes between Cairo and Damascus arising from the Sinai interim accord, Cairo newspapers said today.

Syria has attacked President Sadat's decision to sign the agreement with Egypt, which will return to Egypt a long strip of Western Sinai and oil fields captured in the 1967 Middle East War.

President Sadat has accused Syria's Baathist Party of bowing to Soviet influence and has urged that it take up American initiatives to conclude its own agreement with Israel along the Golan Heights.

Mr. Ismael Fahmi, the Foreign Minister, said efforts were being made to arrange a meeting between President Assad and President Ford when the American leader visits Europe next month. The talks would centre on starting a new dialogue with Israel on a Golan accord.

The Assembly is a parliamentary group with headquarters in Cairo, comprising representatives from the parliaments of the three countries.—UPI.

Stowaways escape

Fukuoka, Japan, Oct. 12.—Ten of a group of 33 South Korean stowaways escaped today while being questioned at the Fukuoka district prosecutor's office about illegally entering Japan.—Reuter.

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## Turks in street clash before poll for senators

From Our Correspondent

Ankara, Oct. 12.—

Despite a violent street battle which left one dead and scores wounded yesterday, everything was quiet today as Turkey went to the polls for Senate elections.

More than 9,500,000 voters in 27 of the country's 67 provinces went to elect 50 senators—a third of the Upper House—and to fill four vacant seats in the Senate and six in the National Assembly.

The first returns suggested that the voters had plumped for the two main parties—Mr. Bulent Ecevit's social-democratic Republican Party (RPP) and the conservative Justice Party (JP) of Mr. Ismet Demirel, the Prime Minister.

On the other hand, the pro-Islamic right-wing National Salvation Party (NSP), which created a surprise by coming third in the 1973 elections, seemed headed for a spectacular drop in votes.

One of the first results to be known was from a voting station in Maltepe, the Ankara district. There, the RPP and JP supporters returning from a party rally clashed for two hours yesterday evening. The station had 160 votes for the RPP, 103 for the JP and only three for the NSP.

There were only a few minor disturbances across the country. The first post-election statement came from Mr. Ecevit, who predicted that his party would get the largest number of votes. Final result will not be known until tomorrow morning.

Lord Chalfont's visit to Peking

Hongkong, Oct. 12.—Lord Chalfont and his wife, Lady Chalfont, arrived in Peking yesterday, were entertained to lunch today by the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, the New China news agency reported.—Agence France-Presse.

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## Suez Canal traffic now 30 ships a day

By Our Foreign Staff

More than 3,000 ships have passed through the Suez Canal since it was reopened by President Sadat four months ago—an average of 22 vessels a day. This is less than half the pre-1967 daily traffic.

But in recent weeks traffic has been picking up, and now averages more than 30 ships a day. The Suez Canal Authority believes that this figure will double as foreign confidence returns after the signing of the interim peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.

According to present estimates Egypt expects to earn \$450m (£220m) in canal dues in the first year of operation, but foreign experts have expressed doubts whether this target can be reached. Canal dues are roughly 90 per cent higher than before 1967 and the present demand for tanker tonnage is slack, so there is relatively little incentive for tanker owners to use the waterway.

In its last full year of operation, 1966, almost 15 per cent of the world's sea trade passed through the



# Marina 2

## We've added more of almost everything except price.

### More choice and style.

There are eleven Marina 2's, five Coupés, five Saloons and an Estate. Four are new additions to the Marina range: the HL Saloon, the GT Coupé and the two 1.8 Specials. Outside, all the new Marinas have been restyled. There are new colours. And the four new models carry matching vinyl roofs and new lighting systems.

### More comfort.

Look inside the new 1.8 Marina Specials. You'll find new, contoured seating with head restraints and a rear central armrest. You'll find a redesigned, colour-matched fascia with a new steering wheel. You'll find a lot of small, thoughtful touches: electric washers with 2-speed wipers, a clock and a cigar lighter are just some of them.

### More control.

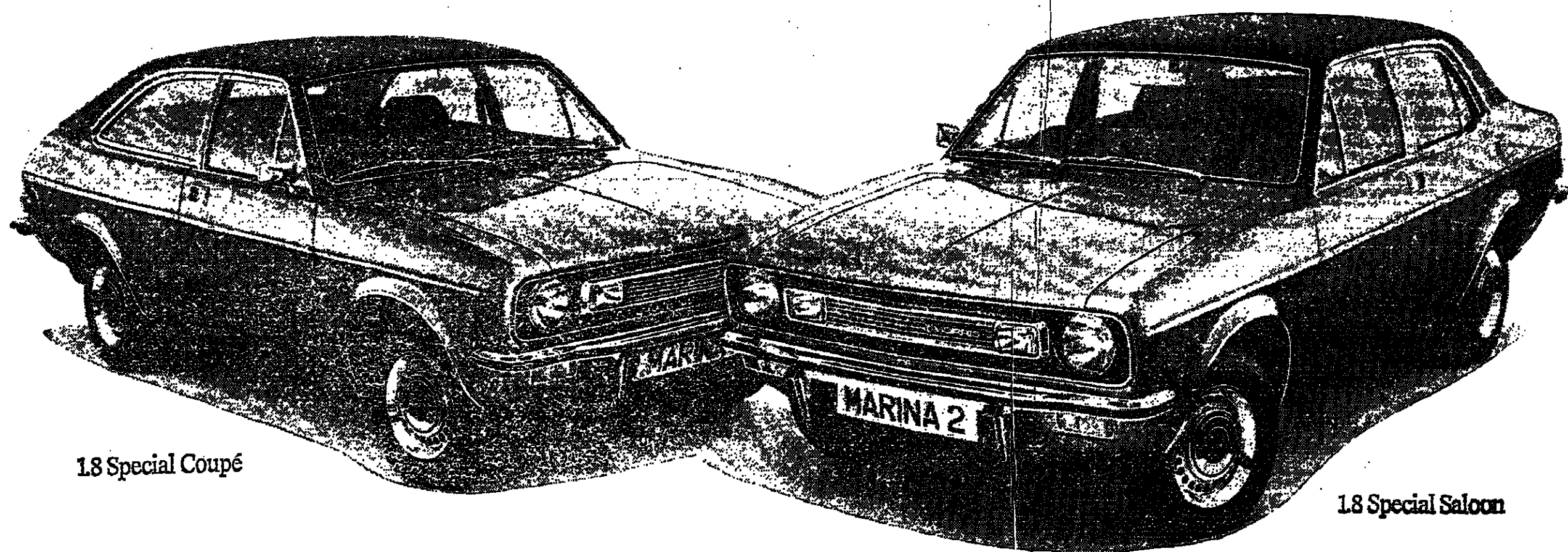
We've developed a new suspension system for Marina 2: anti-roll bars front and rear make for a smoother ride. Front disc brakes are standard on all models, with servo-assistance on the 1.8's. And there's a sensitive rack and pinion steering system. All in all you get better handling out of Marina 2, without sacrificing any of Marina's famed economy.

### More confidence.

All new Leyland cars, including the new Marinas, are protected by Supercover, the most comprehensive after-sales commitment ever seen in Britain.

### No more money.

We haven't increased the prices of the new Marinas. You'll see them listed on the page facing this advertisement. And at those prices you'll find it very hard to beat the new Marinas for value. The only thing left to see is a new Marina. At your Morris showroom. Now.



1.8 Special Coupé

1.8 Special Saloon







the final figure will be far were being studied to ensure accuracy.











# The Land Bill: An everyday story of political bungling?



# IT TOOK US 10 YEARS TO MAKE AN OVERNIGHT SUCCESS OF SILK CUT.

You're probably aware of Silk Cut's growing popularity.

Perhaps you've noticed the way people who wouldn't dream of smoking a mild cigarette eighteen months ago are now happily smoking ours.

Or how pubs that once refused to give us shelf space now willingly do.

What you may not have noticed is that during the first 10 years of Silk Cut's life we made a number of small improvements to our cigarette.

Each aimed at increasing its mild effects, without any loss of flavour.

We started with our tobacco.

Tobacco blending to combine the flavour of the upper leaves with

the mildness of the lower ones. 1964-1972.

In the year Silk Cut made its debut, 1964, our tobacco blend was one of the few around that was both mild and satisfying.

We had an idea, though, that with a little hard work it ought to be possible to make our cigarette even milder.

So we set about the task of sorting through the many different types of tobacco plants.



Charcoal filter. Introduced 1964.

And we experimented with blends made up with leaves taken from the tops and bottoms of plants. (In tobacco plants, the lower leaves, which are

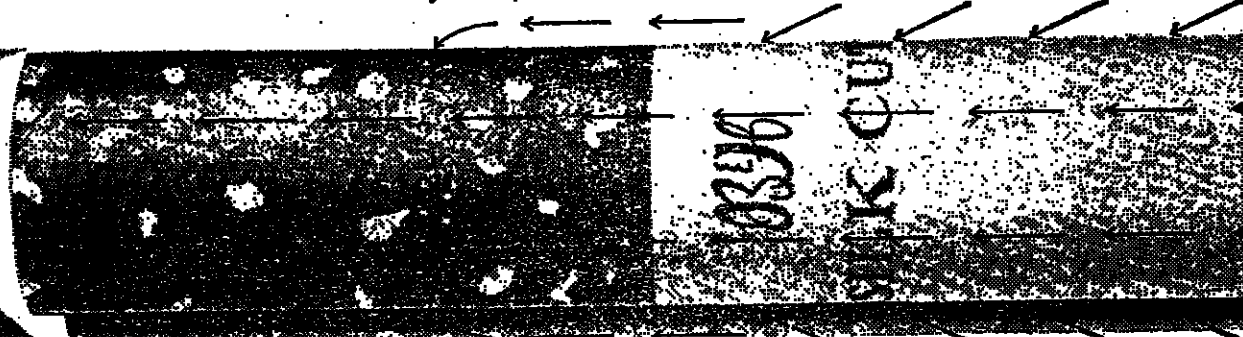
shaded from the sun, produce a milder smoke than the exposed upper ones.)

From the beginning we looked at the filter.

In ordinary cigarettes, filters are made of acetate and paper.

But the Silk Cut filter is a special charcoal filter that produces a smoother smoke than the conventional type.

Again, we wanted to find a way to make the smoke milder still. In fact, we found two ways.



Air ventilation. Introduced 1970.

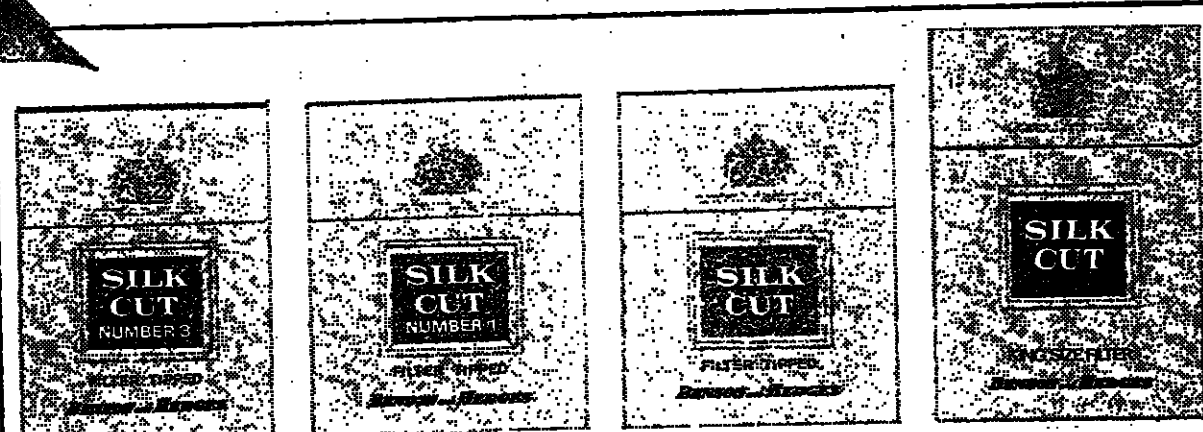
The first was those small holes you see on the picture above.

They are Silk Cut's ventilation system.

When you draw air to be drawn into the filter to mix with the smoke that travelled the length of the cigarette.

The second was the higher-porosity cigarette paper we began using last year.

The result of all these innovations was a cigarette



We've improved our range over the years too.

that was a touch milder than previously, and our smokers thought every bit as satisfying too.

Of course, while we were improving our cigarette, we also improved our range.

(There's now a version of the mild cigarette to suit every smoker's pocket.)

And naturally, we'll go on improving both range and cigarette in any way we can.

We've no intention of letting our success get in the way of that.

**Silk Cut. The mild cigarette.**

LOW TAR As defined by H.M. Government  
EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING









New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## A SEMINAR FOR THE SUMMIT

The planned meeting next month of the heads of government of the six leading industrial nations of the west to discuss world economic problems can be wholeheartedly welcomed, despite the obvious dangers which surround it. If the peoples of the world are led to expect that this meeting will directly and dramatically solve or even ease their economic afflictions, then disappointment and anger can be its only outcome.

Fortunately great care is already being taken to explain that this is not to be an occasion for negotiations or decisions. It will rather be an opportunity for the political leaders of six important countries to talk discursively and uninhibitedly about what they see as profound economic challenges to the stability of social democracy, unencumbered by turgid official briefs and by the distractions of day to day government business.

Just as it would be dangerously naïve to expect the meeting to produce some Vaita-like instant redistribution of the world economy, so also it would be foolishly cynical to suppose that the meeting must be valueless because it will not yield those kind of results. The plain facts are that the world economy, including the industrial economies of the west, is beset by its most serious economic difficulties for at least a quarter of a century, that these difficulties are rooted in the inescapably political problem of inordinate and violently pressed competing appetites for rapid material improvement for soaring numbers of people and that political leadership is indispensable to conquer these difficulties.

It cannot be sensible for those who have the responsibility to give that leadership in an increasingly interdependent world to think and act in isolation from one another or with only the imperfect communication which normal and formal diplomatic channels offer. A true meeting of minds at the highest political levels could indeed prepare the ground for a better and more long-sighted management of the world's present economic disorders, just as the good personal relations between President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill laid the foundations not only for the successful waging of the last war, but also for the simultaneous successful development of a new

post-war economic order—an order which has proved extraordinarily beneficial and durable by any recent historical standard.

That order is now crumbling; and mankind will face untold miseries of chaos, strife and deprivation supervene. There is no need to assume that the heads of government foreign ministers and finance ministers who will assemble at Rambouillet next month lack the stature to recognise the breadth and depth of the challenge or the courage to meet it. In Dr. Kissinger, Chancellor Schmidt, and President Giscard d'Estaing the meeting will be fortunate indeed to have statesmen of proven vision and responsibility.

But the meeting will have to resist the temptation to pursue ephemeral distractions or the narrow preoccupations of particular countries if it is successfully to grapple with the fundamentals. This should not be an opportunity for France to grind its axe about fixed exchange rates or for Britain to lobby for more and faster reflation in the US and Germany or for the United States to rail against OPEC.

The post-war economic order is not threatened because of the recession or because of high oil prices or because of floating exchange rates. If those were all, the problem would be small indeed. It is threatened, in part, because of the difficulty, indeed the seeming impossibility, of combining a tolerable level of employment with a tolerable stability of prices or at least of exchange rates. Mr. Healey's preoccupation with rushing other countries from the unemployment and to the inflation end of that saw only distracts attention from the real problem—so well recognized by Chancellor Schmidt, President Giscard and Dr. Kissinger—that the see-saw itself is becoming unhinged. We can no longer buy full employment by debauching our currencies, still less by beseeching other countries to debauch theirs. Monetary stability is now the precondition of employment stability.

The post-war order is also threatened by the growth of regional economic blocks. If these should ever come to give priority to the assertion of their own identities and of their narrowly conceived producer interests over the preservation of a world order of free multilateral

exchange, both prosperity and ultimately peace itself would be in jeopardy. It is of paramount importance that the Common Market, North America and Japan do not yield to pressures for protection and do not set an example which would spread round the world in a flash.

Finally, the post-war order is threatened—or at least widely thought to be threatened—by the new challenge of organized cartels among raw material producing countries in an age when exponential industrial growth is imposing greater and greater strains on the world's natural resources. More generally, it is argued that if the affluent countries of the world do not reach a mutually acceptable accommodation with the world's poorer countries, they will be condemned to skulk furtively behind a defensive laager of superior military technology—like white South Africa or the Roman Empire long ago—waiting for the inevitable moment when the enraged hordes without finally burst in to destroy the wealth they have not been permitted to share.

Dr. Kissinger's speeches this year at Kansas City and at the seventh special session of the United Nations, which have drawn in part on British ideas and initiatives, have demonstrated a new and constructive desire to accommodate rather than to defy the world's poor. It does not follow that impractical and whimsical schemes for a "new world economic order" can be swallowed whole. But the economic summit will need to establish a shared political will to find in the appropriate international forums workable solutions which reconcile the legitimate desires of the developing nations for a better deal with the basic imperatives of economic efficiency.

Three great prizes could thus be won by a successful summit seminar next month: a common recognition of the overriding importance of monetary stability as the precondition of continuing prosperity and high employment; a common recognition of the overriding importance of the consumer's sovereignty over the producer and so free and open economic exchange between all areas of the world economy; and a common intention to share the world's wealth less unequally without impairing the efficiency of its creation.

## SHARP WORDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

If Mr. Smith's assertion that Mr. Vorster's intervention at the Victoria Falls spoils the prospects of a settlement with the African Nationalists is some sort of tit-for-tat, he is playing a risky game. He was perhaps riled at hints from Pretoria that his refusal to let Mr. Sithole enter Rhodesia to continue the substantive talks designed to follow the Victoria Falls meeting was in breach of understandings reached in the preliminary talks between Zambia, South Africa and Rhodesia. But he is not given to bouts of temper, and the quarrel may go deeper. It sounds at least as if he has to demonstrate to his hard-liners that he is not reduced to the position of Pretoria's office boy. He may be taking into account that Mr. Vorster is under pressure from his own critics, who want to know after the failure to find

a solution in Rhodesia, just how the policy of détente is serving South Africa's interests. Appealing to South African right-wing opinion over Mr. Vorster's head is also a risky game to play. Mr. Vorster's sharp rejoinder shows that he does not welcome criticisms of his détente policy by a client to be added to criticism from his own party. Mr. Smith knows that as well as anyone. Perhaps he reckons that Mr. Vorster has now gone as far in support for Rhodesian détente as his own people will permit, and so a gesture of Rhodesian independence is safe enough. For of Rhodesia's dependence on South African transport, munitions, financial and commercial services there is no question. It is true that Mr. Vorster has now made it clear that while South Africa will maintain this

minimum help it would not be increased if—or when—Mr. Smith's obduracy leads his own people to disavow it.

Relations between Salisbury and Pretoria have never been really cordial. They appear to be at a new low. Nevertheless, Mr. Smith could adopt a less intransigent position in new talks with Mr. Nkomo and this could give Mr. Nkomo a bit more leverage to get something he can persuade his followers is not a sell-out. So long as this faint hope of a deal is kept alive President Kaunda can be expected to keep a restraining hand on the Zulu militants. If, furthermore, Mr. Vorster has decided to show Rhodesians that they are now really on their own, and to let the world know this decision, the scene has significantly changed.

## David Wood

### Mrs Thatcher's middle-class uprising

Although I have neither liking nor perhaps aptitude for broad-brush phrases in political analysis, it seems to me a fair judgment on the Conservative conference in Blackpool last week that Mrs. Margaret Thatcher has set her hand to leading an uprising of the middle class. Her fascinatingly successful speech on Friday was a calculated call to political arms addressed to all those, in every socio-economic class, who identify themselves and their best interests with middle-class moral values.

She saw the state serving the individual citizen to enable him to develop the best that is in him; and she insisted on the interdependence of moral values and economics with freedom. Her message was above all about people, not about the collective of people that forms the state. She reminded the middle class, wherever it may be, that it need not be ashamed of its past or, if it accepted her leadership, afraid for its future.

He profoundly believed in change, particularly technocratic and structural change; and nobody should forget that conservatism has survived on change. He wanted the United Kingdom in Europe, because in post-imperial days the United Kingdom had to find a new role in the rationalized industry in the contemporary world, rather than watch its Victorian achievements mould and decay. He shifted the landmarks of British life: local government, reform, education, and most characteristically some would say, in asserting the need for the state in modern times to assert itself against the individual citizen. Like Macaulay, Mr. Heath said, "Reform that you may preserve."

For most Conservatives there has been too much change. If Conservative governments alter the social and economic landscape with as much zeal as Labour governments, what will soon be left? They crave for moral stability and that is what Mrs. Thatcher offers them. No change, she says, for the sake of change; no aggrandizement of the state against the individual citizen. The change she wants is a halt to the socialist drift of postwar years. Perhaps because she is thoroughly womanly, perhaps because she has a stronger human rapport than Mr. Heath, her ideas begin and end with people, rather than with a concept of the state and its power.

It is one thing, of course, to be a party leader in years of Opposition, acting as the evangel of the rank and file, and another thing to be a Prime Minister in office. The purity and incorruptibility of Mrs. Thatcher's Conservatism, unlike Mr. Heath's, has not yet been put to the test. That test will be, when the next general election comes, not precisely how many votes can be produced by the middle classes, but rather how many can be produced by electors who deem themselves middle class or who identify themselves with a hypothetical middle class, its morality, its interests, its grievances and its desires.

Nothing is more sure than that Mr. Wilson and the Labour Government will be defeated when they eventually fall, from within rather than from outside. Nobody may yet predict the time or the occasion. Mrs. Thatcher sees it as her first task to prepare the Conservative Party for the day by renewing its confidence, by reestablishing the capitalist alternative to corporate socialism and socialism alike, by turning a rearward defensive action into a full-blooded assault on what Mr. Wilson has called the natural party of government.

Last Friday she made sure of the loyalty and the battle-finess of her rank and file, and it now remains for her to win over those who will be disillusioned by Labour and the Liberals in the months ahead. "We are coming," she said last Friday, "to yet another turning point in our long history." The day had come for a fearful popular decision to be made before long it would be too late. She has called, and will go on calling, for the middle classes to recover their old confidence and their old political influence; and her instruction tells her that the middle class is needed to lead the rest of the British people recognizing themselves in the mirror she holds up. It is in that sense that she is a new leader carrying British politics into a new phase, at the head of a party that begins to stir with a new purpose.

## Parliament's congested timetable

From Mr W. R. van Straubenzee, *Conservative M.P. for Wokingham*. Sir, With the House of Commons resuming after the summer recess attention will again be drawn to the overloading of the legislative programme. While undoubtedly the greater share of the blame for this must be laid at the door of the Government, it is also not an appropriate moment to consider the introduction of a permanent mechanism for the allocation of time for legislation.

Observance of the conventions plays a large part in Parliament's life. Theoretically, any government could swamp with its own supporters membership of a Standing Committee considering a Bill in detail. Yet in practice this does not happen. Of recent years it has proved perfectly possible to divide up the Finance Bill and only to take on the floor of the House clauses which are agreed to be of major importance. So far as I am aware this arrangement has worked tolerably well, and successive Oppositions do not seem to have felt their rights seriously eroded by its adoption.

Supposing there were, rather than the Committee of Selection, a committee for the allocation of time, its duty would be to consider all legislation given a First Reading by the House and to report how much time, particularly at the Committee and Report stages,

ought to be allocated to it. It might be appropriate if its chairman were by convention a senior member of the Opposition though obviously its composition would reflect the representation of the parties in Parliament. Its recommendations would of course be subject to acceptance or rejection by the House as a whole, just as are those of the Committee of Selection. It would probably be wisest for it to be tried initially for a trial period.

The Opposition may be tempted to reply that the only weapon open to them is delay. But how realistic in present circumstances is that argument? If a government chooses to do so it can obtain a guillotine merely by sacrificing three hours of government time on the floor of the House. This does not strike me as a particularly impressive example of delay. I have a feeling that a permanent time-allocation motion would actually result in more time being available to Oppositions for legislation, which at present is all too often examined less thoroughly than it ought to be. It would certainly result in such work being done at a time when the mind is still alert and vigorous.

It is at any rate a worthwhile suggestion. Yours faithfully, W. R. van STRAUBENZEE, House of Commons, October 7.

## Arms control: European security

From Mrs Elizabeth Young. Sir, Willy Brandt is reported to have said at the UPI Conference on Monday (October 6) that if it could help break the stalemate he would welcome a Nato move in the Vienna talks to swap a number of Western tactical nuclear weapons "in exchange for a considerable number of Soviet tanks". The suggestion, to put it mildly, is ill-considered. There are, of course, other, more reliable, ways of breaking the stalemate; but as a suggestion, for a measure of arms control in Europe, this is a veritable can of worms.

(Other ways of breaking the stalemate? M. Trudeau found the little fact of wheat very effective in his conversations with Mr. Brezhnev in Helsinki about Russian overfishing in the North West Atlantic. The Russians immediately agreed to reduce their take in these international waters by 40 per cent.)

But, stalemate or not, there are several reasons why this particular offer would be a dangerous and counter-productive precedent in European arms control negotiations. In the first place it would mean bringing Western nuclear weapons, which are in Europe, into discussion, while leaving all the equally relevant Russian nuclear weapons, either sited in Europe, or targeted on Europe, out.

The Soviet Union for years has had some 600 odd intermediate range missiles (IRBMs), which are not warheads, facing us. Their range excludes these weapons from discussion in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks—although for Western Europe they are obviously strategic weapons. Their location in Western Russia—excludes them from discussion in the MBRF talks; (nor are they discussed in the Geneva Disarmament Committee). Mr. Brandt's suggestion for putting Western "tactical" nuclear weapons on the table in Vienna would confirm and freeze these Russian weapons, so far from immunity from discussion.

As well, it would mean introducing for the first time, the principle of unilateral nuclear disarmament on the part of the West, a slippery slope for Nato to embark on, perhaps?

Moreover, the Soviet Union has now started to test a new IRBM ("SSX20") either to replace, or to supplant, the existing 600—peculiar development, in the light of Helsinki, made even more unattractive by the Soviet Union's claim that French and British strategic weapons should be considered limited already by the SALT 1 agreements. Thus a Nato proposal for a unilateral reduction in Nato nuclear forces would be coinciding with, and therefore implying no objection to, an increase in the numbers and quality of nuclear weapons on the other side.

Mr. Callaghan, in a foreign affairs debate last year, very sensibly directed Parliament's attention to the need to draw these shorter-range Soviet strategic weapons into one or other of the ongoing European security negotiations. The traditional American view has been that Soviet IRBMs are of no great significance; they could only be brought into play in the event of a nuclear war fought exclusively on European soil, and, because they cannot reach the territory of the United States, they are not a component of the overall strategic balance.

These arguments are unlikely to impress European governments, but it would certainly seem to follow from them that the Soviet IRBMs must be part of the "theatre balance" in Europe. Yet in calculations of the balance in Europe they are traditionally left out because they are sited beyond the Russian/Polish border (one of the accepted divides between strategical and tactical found, conventionally, in the Soviet American SALT talks).

In short, in alliance strategy, these weapons do not really exist at all.

Must one not ask why? The Soviet Union takes them seriously enough. Meanwhile, for the European allies to allow Nato's "ignorance" of these weapons to be confirmed along the lines of Mr. Brandt's suggestion would be exceptionally shortsighted.

Yours, ELIZABETH YOUNG, 100 Bayswater Road, W2, October 9.

## Management of education in London

From the Leader of the Inner London Education Authority.

Sir, Sir Malby Crofton in his letter of October 8 argues that the Inner London Education Authority should be disbanded in favour of individual education authorities to be run by the twelve inner London boroughs. I suspect he takes this view for the same reason as most London boroughs take the opposing view: that is, quite simply, that the more widely the parts of London help the less prosperous to ensure that all inner London children, wherever they live, benefit equally.

If each borough paid only for the education provision in its area, Kensington and Chelsea, together with Westminster, Camden and the City of London would help the rest of the boroughs in their rate demands while the ratepayers of all the other inner London boroughs could expect to pay anything up to 70p extra in the pound. In short, the ILEA redistributes the wealth of central London to the deprived parts of east and south London.

Sir Malby accuses the ILEA of financial extravagance on evidence which is highly dubious. A school could only watch national television for a few hours a week. The ILEA television sets in their packing cases, by buying another set, would be unlikely to accuse us of extravagance in our use of an educational television service.

It is true that the ILEA does not have the power to ignore objections on the ground that the acquisition is "unnecessary or inexpedient" nor the power to dispense with a public inquiry, as he has in all other cases. The proposed amendment, however, leaves the decision whether these powers are to be applied wholly in the hands of the acquiring authority; for provided they include in the compulsory purchase order a certificate (which it is to) to the effect that the proposed acquisition is necessary and expedient, the decision whether to acquire is not to be amended accordingly. It remains a power to acquire any land which in the opinion of the authority is suitable for development, ie any development and not merely "development land" which is now defined as land which in their "opinion is needed for relevant development within 10 years" and which would, therefore, exclude land for exempt development.

There is also to be defined by regulations a new category of "excepted development" for which authorities will have the power but not the duty to acquire land. If they

propose to exercise such power the Secretary of State, we are told, will neither have the power to ignore objections on the ground that the acquisition is "unnecessary or inexpedient" nor the power to dispense with a public inquiry, as he has in all other cases.

It is difficult to believe Sir Malby's assurance that his council's education advisory committee is in no way designed to undermine the ILEA, when the whole of his letter is clearly designed to further that end.

Yours faithfully, ASHLEY BRAMALL, The County Hall, SE1, October 10.

## Releases on parole

From Mr Nicholas Hinton.

Sir, May I express support for Mr. Philip Hain's letter of October 8 in which he criticises the Lord Devlin's advocacy of a greater use of indeterminate prison sentences? (The Times, October 7). The parole system in this country is in effect a system of indeterminate sentencing whereby the actual time a prisoner serves before the end of his sentence (minus a period of remission) without the approval of the Parole Board, is determined by a court of law. So 14,401 of the 31,396 sentenced men and women in prisons in England and Wales do not know when they might be released.

The criticisms of the present parole system are similar to those of the American system, cited by Mr. Hain. He says that reasons that NACRO proposes an alternative system whereby for all prisoners with sentences of up to

and including three years' release on licence should be automatic after serving one-third of his sentence, subject to a loss of remission) with supervision on licence up to the end of the sentence. For those receiving a sentence of over three years the courts should have at their discretion power to order that the prisoner should not be released before the end of his sentence (minus a period of remission) without the approval of the Parole Board.

As a matter of justice it is also important that grounds for parole refusal be communicated to the prisoner. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS HINTON, Director, National Association for the Release and Resettlement of Offenders, 125 Kennington Park Road, SE11, October 7.

## Christians and violence

From Mr D. H. R. Archer.

Sir, In his defence of the attitude of the World Council of Churches to the use of violence, Bishop Leslie Newbigen begs what seems to me to be the central question when he writes that "the Church cannot do it to affirm that non-violence is the sole option permitted to a Christian in the face of an injustice which has proved resistant to all persuasions" (Letters, October 6).

Others better qualified than I may challenge this view on doctrinal grounds. But what is the issue here and by whom this "injustice" is to be defined; and how and by whom it is to be decided that the magnitude of the injustice and the difficulty of righting it in any other way is sufficient for the killing and

maintaining of people—including children and others who are not parties to the dispute—to be permissible.

Authors have long been campaigning, with little success, against the "injustice" of free public lending. Would they be justified in furthering their cause by violence? Liberals have for many years protested vainly at the "injustice" of our electoral system. Would the WCC support them if they took up arms? What of the desires of the Welsh and Scottish Nationalists? Where lies the balance of justice in Ireland today?

Yours faithfully, D. H. R. ARCHER, Redriff, Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex.

## British interests and EEC

From Dr Christopher Berram.

Sir, Your leader of October 8 presumes to state that the EEC provides what is surely a novel and disturbing definition of the European Community: "to act as one unit when our interests coincide and to preserve the rights of each member state where conflicts of interests exist." Membership in the Community implies that conflicting interests exist but that they must be reconciled in the common interest of all members. If it should only function when our interests coincide anyway, why have a Community at all?

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER BERRAM, 29 Lloyd Square, WC1.

## "Days of Hope"

From Mr David Boulton.

Sir, Returning from abroad, I have only today caught up with the Headmaster of Westminster School's scribbles on the BBC for using my "anti-war" book *Objection Overruled* as a source for *Days of Hope*. Mr. Rae—who modestly omits to mention that he, too, has written a book on First World War conscientious objectors, putting the Army's perspective—questions the historical basis of the scene in Loach's film where a conscientious objector was tied to a post within range of enemy fire.

The punishment described in the *Manual of Military Law* as "field punishment number one" and known to the troops as "crucifixion" (because it consisted of tying hands and feet to a stake or other fixed object) was repeatedly endured by twelve objectors at Le Havre in May, 1916. According to the account of one of them, a Duker named Cornelius Barritt, they were, on at least one occasion, secured to barbed wire stakings.

Another objector, W. C. Tyrell, told how in 1918 he was "tied to a stake every day for a month, often within the range of shell fire which drove the guard 100 yards away for safety". Does Mr. Rae suppose these

first-hand accounts were manufactured by the conscientious propaganda machine? If so, what does he make of the Army's decision to scrap field punishment on October 8 prior to the war, largely as a result of the public outrage provoked by its admitted use against conscientious objectors?

Yours faithfully, DAVID BOULTON, 26 Hail Street, Belmont, Lancashire, October 8.

## Inferior wine

From the Rev Arthur C. Davies.

Sir, May I again crave the indulgence of your space to confirm Mr. John Hart's suspicions that he is not the only EEC partner (letter, September 17) who wishes to drink inferior wine? He has only to notice the empty bottles, which had recently held the cheapest wine at present obtainable, to be assured of that.

It is because some of us are so anxious not to increase the numbers of the pathetically addicted vagrants who left them there that we are not in favour of the flooding of the country with cheap wine which could result from the tax-removal which he advocates. Yours faithfully, ARTHUR C. DAVIES, General Secretary, The Temperance Council of the Christian Churches, Gordon St, WC1.

## The same, but better

From Mr Bernard V. Slater.

Sir, A young lady from Peking assured me that Chairman Mao's suit is just like that worn by the Chinese worker. "Enter cloth, though," she added. Yours faithfully, BERNARD V. SLATER, Bradford Grammar School, Keisley Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire.

## Felixstowe docks

From Sir Arthur Kirby.

Sir, Mr. Donald Royal might not have written his letter, published in your issue of October 10, if he had known that since its establishment about twelve years ago the British Transport Docks Board has been consistently profitable, has operated a very well managed group of ports, has paid many millions of pounds of interest charges to the Treasury and has undertaken a forward looking capital development programme, largely from ploughed back revenue. I can think of no better guarantee of Felixstowe continuing to be forward looking and managed, profitable and efficient than for it to be absorbed into the British Transport Docks group. Yours faithfully, ARTHUR KIRBY, 6 Baltimore Court, 74 The Drive, Hove, October 11.

## Newspaper corrections

From Mr Ian R. Mathews.

Sir, Your correspondent Herbert Mishal is correct. I believe, in his assessment of *The Age*, Melbourne, as one of the world's great newspapers (The Times, September 22, 1975). However, his statement that *The Age's* practice of publishing corrections has not been copied by other newspapers may give the impression that *The Age* was the leader in the field of Australian journalistic honesty. It was not. *The Canberra Times*, prompted by your example, adopted the practice of publishing corrections in 1964, and to my annoyance and occasional embarrassment, continues to do so all too frequently. Yours faithfully, IAN R. MATHEWS, Editor, The Canberra Times, PO Box 218, Canberra City, ACT 2601, September 30.











BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Gilts-looking for pointers from the US

Last week saw the buyers back in the gilt-edged market in a way they have not been since those remarkable days in mid-summer when the "cap" stock was exhausted within a matter of days. I suspect that the buying owned much to a gut feeling that interest rates cannot now go much higher. Were the United Kingdom domestic markets left to their own resources there can be no doubt of a rapid downward adjustment—the artificiality of the present rate structure was re-emphasized last week by the almost negligible margin available between Treasury bills and other short money market instruments.

But events in America have also been taking an encouraging, if tentative, turn for the better. Given that the rise in rates here owes a great deal to the persistent firmness of American rates, threatening to eat into the differential which the Bank of England evidently thinks necessary to maintain the interest of foreign investment in sterling, the downturn which has been taking place in the United States in recent days looks to be of some importance.

Last Friday's figures showed a further fall in the money supply, and for the fifth week out of six, the big New York banks reported a decline in short-term business loans. The implication is that the tight money policy which has been largely responsible for forcing up American rates has been successful to the point where the authorities can now contemplate a more relaxed attitude. Evidence that this may be happening lies in the apparent drop in the intervention point at which the Federal Reserve Board is prepared to step in to support the Federal funds rate (effectively the interbank rate), which has consequently fallen with little impact on other rates. Heartened by this news—and also by the growing conviction that whatever the Administration says a federally-backed solution to New York's problems will be found—the bond market showed some dramatic improvements.

One swallow does not make a summer, of course, but if the present trend can be maintained, the necessity for our own authorities to prop up short-term rates artificially could ease, which would, in turn, vindicate last week's buyers of gilts.

### Engineers

#### Judging the cycle

A number of studies over recent years have confirmed what many investors, who have failed to introduce an element of spread into their portfolios, will already know all too well—namely that portfolio performance in a bull market can vary considerably. For there can not only be substantial differences between the performance of individual sectors but also of individual shares within those sectors. The present market has been no exception in this respect, though one of the more unusual aspects of relative performance has been the way in which attention has focused so heavily on blue chip shares (and to some extent the more grotesquely bombed out situations), tending to leave second line shares in the shadows.

Assuming that we have a second leg of this bull market yet to come, it is clearly of some importance what kind of shares investors buy and what kind of shares they sell. Clearing the air on this question of this score, given the kind of economic and political background against which any further progress is likely to be made by the market—an atmosphere better than at present



Mr. Michael Marriott, chairman of the Stock Exchange, trying to justify higher commission rates.

perhaps, but still far from confidence-inspiring—is that there will be little change in the fundamental pattern, with blue chips continuing to make most of the running. One of the more interesting questions, however, is how one should treat engineering shares. And here the short, if seemingly unhelpful answer, must be: on the one hand, the further towards the heavy end of the industry a company is, the more counter-cyclical it is likely to prove. Many of the heavy engineers are, therefore, happy about their current workloads but considerably more worried that this year's continued decline in capital investment authorizations may leave them with some heavy holes in their 1976 workload—at a time when the lighter end of the industry may well be showing signs of recovery.

By and large I would not expect the shares of companies heavily involved with capital equipment to prove particularly exciting investments over the next year. Reservations probably also apply to the shares of companies closely involved with specialist end of the steel industry, where there are probably some fairly grim months of trading still ahead—something on which Duport may be able to throw more light in its interim statement on Monday.

For the rest, a great deal clearly depends on the individual companies. Quite apart from the obvious basic criteria of proven management and a sound record, there is obviously much sense in sticking reasonably closely to the selection criteria suggested in a recent Joseph Sebag circular on the light-medium end of engineering—companies with large overseas sales and/or significant overseas manufacturing capacity; companies with growth products; companies with strong balance sheets. The brokers themselves favour Vickers and Hawker-Siddeley as the pick of the bunch, with Tubes and The 600 Group as attractive income stocks. My own feeling is that the nationalization uncertainty overhanging Vickers is too great for comfort at this stage, while, of the other majors, GKN, albeit on a lower yield, is a better bet than Tubes on the grounds that it should pull out of the recession earlier.

### Commissions

#### Institutional rumblings

Price increases are rarely taken with good grace. But judging by the rumblings among the major investing institutions it is beginning to look as if The Stock Exchange could have a more than usually difficult task in convincing them that a rise in stockbrokers' commission rates

is really justified at the present time, and far less that they should be called upon to bear the lion's share of any increase. Representatives from the institutions are meeting over the next week or two to finalize their attitude towards The Stock Exchange's proposals. However, as the Stock Exchange is quick to point out, the revised commission rates are theirs and theirs alone—in the final instance, it is not a matter of negotiation. But the institutions could throw a spanner into the works if they demand a full and complete breakdown of the details of the trend in stockbroking costs—something that the Price Commission may want in any case.

While the number of stockbrokers has contracted sharply in the wake of the low level of stock market turnover—theoretically giving the survivors a larger slice of the cake—and the major part of the price rise now looking much better after the past year's cost-cutting measures, overheads are climbing all the time and the number of bargains is back to a very low level after the first quarter's recovery.

So even if broking profits are now above 1974's terribly low levels, they are nowhere near the palmy days of the 1960s. Moreover, the underwriting fees from this year's rights issues boom and the high level of activity in the fixed interest market have not been shared equally among the broking community, with the bulk of both markets dominated by a handful of firms.

No argument here, though from the institutions. What they take exception to is the suggestion that higher commission rates should be heaped on them. For in so doing their feeling is that they will further subsidize the small investor.

Commissions on small bargains may well have been raised in the hurry to try to make them a more economic proposition, but the investor who wants to put anything under £200 into a share is more trouble than he is worth, though, of course, the broker never goes to a specialist broker without the expenses of a Throgmorton Street office is rather lower.

How far Ariel—the computerized share dealing system set up by the accepting houses—will pick up institutional business is higher commission rates are concentrated on large deals is difficult to say. It may be that Ariel facing cost pressures, albeit less of its own will take it as an opportunity to raise its rates as well.

There are also some wider issues at stake than simply commission rates. Some feel that the opportunity should be taken to look more closely at the areas of the share dealing system. One particular bone of contention among several brokers is the way bargains are confined in a three-month period, so that an investor can take advantage of the sliding scale of commission rates with a consequent loss of income to brokers.

The Stock Exchange is also looking at the system whereby commissions are paid to agents, notably the clearing banks, who buy and sell shares on behalf of their customers. Barclays has already tried to make its small investor business more efficient by purchasing several small time an investor selected number of brokers. But the banks speak with one voice when they argue that they provide brokers with a lot of business, which does not pay for itself, even now, and could reduce their share of the fees to customers were increased.

The danger in all this is that the interests of the small investor will be overlooked. If commissions are raised to the level that makes it unattractive for him to invest, the market will become even more dominated by the major institutions—the very antithesis of what the Stock Exchange is meant to be.

Several people have recently remarked that, when it comes to trouble, there is one law for financial institutions and another for the rest. Often the particular reasons why financial institutions have been caught in extreme difficulties have not been of a sort to give rise to any special moral sympathy or support. The commercial activity which exposed, say, Keyser Ullmann, under the chairmanship of Mr. Edward du Cann, to strain were not linked to any very clear moral or national advantage.

Yet Keyser Ullmann was let into the "lifeboat" operation, and Mr. du Cann saved the embarrassment of facing a difficult situation. And so were six banks or finance houses (household names all) at a total of some 30 financial companies (some of the most ephemeral consequence) with a total support from the Bank of England and the clearing banks that totalled well over £1,000m.

On the other side of the Atlantic the picture is similar. The greatest names of the banking establishment, from the Chase downwards, have, to put it mildly, been stretched. Real estate investment trusts, Penn Central, Pan Am, second mortgages for shipowners, New York City debt—the list of actual and potential write-offs is unending. Yet, while a retail company like W. T. Grant can be allowed to collapse into bankruptcy, it is a moral certainty that none of the banks, which collectively then face a shortage of \$640m would be allowed to go the same way.

The reason is simple and compelling. If banks of any size go to the wall, the domino effect would be immediate and catastrophic for the whole financial system. Come what may, therefore, the damage has to be contained. The process throws up a whole series of practical and philosophical difficulties, as the London lifeboat committee have found. But these difficulties are as nothing compared with the chaos from a spreading collapse.

There are those, notably the previous governor of the Bank, Lord O'Brien, who have applied the same logic to the relationship between the City and the British industry. The performance of

British industry has, by general agreement, not been adequate for decades. For this there may be many reasons, but one is likely to be the type and quality of finance provided for industry by the City and the two centres of criticism have been that the institutional investor has behaved like the absentee landlord of history and legend towards the companies he legally owns.

The second is that, particularly in an age of inflation, the system is unable to provide enough long term equity capital and British industry is therefore unequally burdened with expensive debt.

The O'Brien attempt to get the institutional investor to accept a more direct responsibility for industrial companies in trouble came after his seeing experiences in trying to get further finance for Rolls-Royce. It failed largely because the insurance companies as a whole declined to play their part. The present Governor has embarked on a similar initiative,

associated with the name of industrial adviser, Sir John Mason. This time the insurance companies are less negative, but the criticism coming from the pension funds is more severe. In each case the argument is that an insurance company or pension fund holds its money in trust and has an obligation to invest that money. Yet there is a "difficult" industrial situation fact be an essential kind premium, if there is to be any investment, and banks were dragged in: the secondary financial order to save the system? Institutional investors (as goes) will be dragged in of England's initiative in the system on which the one protagonist put, Benson would be a cheat for that."

It is a development that could bring sharp cost reductions in the manufacture of beef, leading naturally to lower retail prices and producing, along the way, substantial profits for all those involved in the industry, including the considerable number of Wall Street speculators who see cattle as a good alternative investment to stocks and shares.

Traditionally the American cattle business has involved the continual shipment of livestock across the country. Calves have been raised in one place, marketed in another, fattened in another, slaughtered and transported thousands of miles to wholesalers and the carving knives of skilled city butchers.

If it is now happening in Amarillo, Texas, developments in the cattle business are being watched with interest by all those who are likely to be taking a conservative view, though. There can be little doubt that the clearing banks themselves have been badly shaken by the secondary bank crisis.

Their own involvement in property has forced them all into heavy loss provisions, and although they never suffered the erosion of confidence seen among the fringe banks they have taken the message fully to heart.

In future this can be expected to mean that the clearers will take a more conservative view on their lending policies in general and may well take a more active supervisory interest in the affairs of their hire purchase offshoots. So it is hard to conceive of these offshoots going down-market and meeting the financing needs of the man who wants to buy a five or six-year old high-powered motor car, through a less than top quality motor dealer.

All of this carries widespread implications for the consumer. There will, of course, always be someone prepared to put up a loan for any purpose if the price is right. But if the majors of the hire purchase world resolutely turn their backs on business which they regard as being other than prime quality, it would seem unavoidable that the cost of finance to lower quality borrowers in the next consumer spending boom must rise markedly.

The motor market still accounts for more than 60 per cent of all instalment credit outstanding, and there are some in the hire purchase industry who think that the squeeze on some used car buyers could be bitter—possibly even to the point where old cars are consigned to the scrap heap more quickly than usual, on the grounds that it would be excessively difficult to finance their continued existence.

How, then, will such houses be able to compete? One view

## What is the future now for secondary banks?

After last week's dramatic story from the National Finance Corporation concerning its £73m loss, following almost equally alarming results earlier from United Dominions Trust and Keyser Ullmann, the latter two rescuers of the troubled secondary banks must at last be hoping that all the skeletons have emerged from the fringe banking cupboard.

If so, it will now finally be possible to see how the £1,200m "lifeboat" operation, launched by the clearing banks and the Bank of England early last year, can eventually be run down. In FNFC's case there remains much uncertainty and it seems likely that it will yet be several years before the support group gets back the bulk of the £360m so far pumped in.

In the case of UDT, too, so far propped up to the tune of £460m, the future is less than clear. Certainly for FNFC, and probably for UDT, some running down of the business looks inevitable. But these two giants apart, the future for the other main recipients of "lifeboat" funds is much rosier.

Mercantile Credit, once supported to the extent of £165m, has been able to restructure itself by selling out to Barclay Bank. Bowmaker, another leading finance house, which had received some £90m of support, has managed to refinance much of its short term "lifeboat" funds on a floating basis. And Keyser, which had been drawing £65m from the support group at one stage, expects to have repaid the "lifeboat" in full out of cash flow by its year end.

The question now, therefore, is less where the rescue operation goes from here than what kind of a future remains for those companies which during the coming months or years manage to fight their way out of the "lifeboat".

Mercantile Credit made its own view of its future quite clear when recommending shareholders to support the board's decision to sell to Barclays. Its message is of particular importance for FNFC and UDT.

Having pointed out that there had been no confidence reversion of deposits from normal money market channels—and by implication that it was not expected much in the immediate future—it said: "Until such time as this occurs, it is difficult to see how we can continue to provide the further development of our business, which development has been closely restricted since December, 1973."

"In fact, this relative scarcity of new deposits has made it difficult to sustain the present volume of our business, and we should not have been able to do so without substantial help from the support group."

In short, Mercantile was suggesting that in the event of the consumer spending cycle picking up during the coming months the company would be left struggling to free itself from the "lifeboat". Mercantile clearly felt that this would involve it in extensive retrenchment at a time when new opportunities were arising. Inevitably, it would be bound to lose some of the share of the market and to be by-passed by the revival.

How severe that retrenchment might have had to be, but for Barclays' intervention, is a moot point, but Bowmaker's experience provides some kind of a yardstick. A year ago, Bowmaker had virtually no property involvement and thus escaped the heavy loss provisions forced upon others. Moreover, it had the reassuring fact of a large financial backer, C. I. Bowring, behind it.

Even so, Bowmaker had cut back the size of its balance sheet by a third over 18 months and had brought its borrowing/sharesholders' funds ratio down to a highly conservative 5:1, before its position was strong enough to enable it to arrange a medium-term finance with the blessing of the "lifeboat".

If the necessities of life were such for Bowmaker, how much more stringent must they be for others, more deeply enmeshed in property? It seems reasonable to assume that Mercantile might have had to come to pay as much as a halving of its balance sheet.

Much of the problem is that the property market, in its present torpid state, is ill-equipped to absorb the property disposals that the secondary banks would so dearly like. But it is evident that without large disposals, confidence will not return to the money markets, so that both UDT and FNFC may have to face a haul of three or perhaps even five years before they can again expect to finance their traditional sources.

In the meantime, they are left paying the "lifeboat" a margin of some 13 to 20 per cent over what the finance houses controlled by the big banks—namely the Midland Central (National Westminster) and the Hodge Group (Standard and Chartered) and Lloyds & Scottish (Lloyds Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland)—might have to pay for the same money.

Even if they can successfully remove themselves from the "lifeboat" it is fair to assume that the lack of powerful backing from a clearing bank will mean that the independents, and UDT, may continue to have to pay over the odds for funds.

How, then, will such houses be able to compete? One view

## A quiet revolution in Amarillo, Tex

A quiet revolution is taking place in the management of the thousand-million dollar American beef business. It is a revolution that is moving ahead at such a pace and with such a lack of publicity that at first it is difficult for the layman to appreciate fully.

It is a development that could bring sharp cost reductions in the manufacture of beef, leading naturally to lower retail prices and producing, along the way, substantial profits for all those involved in the industry, including the considerable number of Wall Street speculators who see cattle as a good alternative investment to stocks and shares.

Traditionally the American cattle business has involved the continual shipment of livestock across the country. Calves have been raised in one place, marketed in another, fattened in another, slaughtered and transported thousands of miles to wholesalers and the carving knives of skilled city butchers.

If it is now happening in Amarillo, Texas, developments in the cattle business are being watched with interest by all those who are likely to be taking a conservative view, though. There can be little doubt that the clearing banks themselves have been badly shaken by the secondary bank crisis.

Their own involvement in property has forced them all into heavy loss provisions, and although they never suffered the erosion of confidence seen among the fringe banks they have taken the message fully to heart.

In future this can be expected to mean that the clearers will take a more conservative view on their lending policies in general and may well take a more active supervisory interest in the affairs of their hire purchase offshoots. So it is hard to conceive of these offshoots going down-market and meeting the financing needs of the man who wants to buy a five or six-year old high-powered motor car, through a less than top quality motor dealer.

All of this carries widespread implications for the consumer. There will, of course, always be someone prepared to put up a loan for any purpose if the price is right. But if the majors of the hire purchase world resolutely turn their backs on business which they regard as being other than prime quality, it would seem unavoidable that the cost of finance to lower quality borrowers in the next consumer spending boom must rise markedly.

The motor market still accounts for more than 60 per cent of all instalment credit outstanding, and there are some in the hire purchase industry who think that the squeeze on some used car buyers could be bitter—possibly even to the point where old cars are consigned to the scrap heap more quickly than usual, on the grounds that it would be excessively difficult to finance their continued existence.

How, then, will such houses be able to compete? One view

aging companies, pendent farmers, owners and by what called "the Madison vector". From the less negative, but the criticism coming from the pension funds is more severe. In each case the argument is that an insurance company or pension fund holds its money in trust and has an obligation to invest that money. Yet there is a "difficult" industrial situation fact be an essential kind premium, if there is to be any investment, and banks were dragged in: the secondary financial order to save the system? Institutional investors (as goes) will be dragged in of England's initiative in the system on which the one protagonist put, Benson would be a cheat for that."

The feed-yards are equipped with highly feed machinery, run by computers, this highly mechanized where the cowboy horses, who still move around, dip and beam seem distinctly out of the scene. The average 2,150 pounds taken to the slaughterhouse.

Possibly the most of these is situated just miles from Amarillo, owned by Iowa Beef Inc., which claims to be the world's largest beef and processing plant. This new \$30m plant, assembly line procedure, is being adapted for the business.

The visitor simply at live cattle enter at and leave in small boxes after. Here about 212 are slaughtered every day, they pass through various in the plant, being fed diseases and graded out before they are canned assorted types of beef.

These small packages placed in a freezer to hold 1,250 pounds of meat and the stock can be over every three days. The packages can be delivered directly to retailers at a time this will almost certainly happen, although some union difficulties are moment postponing the development. This plant is more than the logical means for an area that managed to attain to the decision of every other at the beef producing business. Cattle in the United States are still being transported distances and in some areas the country the methods of Amarillo frowned upon.

Today costs about 15¢ a pound to raise a calf to 600 pounds and then about cents for every additional pound, when all costs are included, to get the cow to a ready for slaughtering. Cattle producers are raising beef prices are rising and the stock can be as possibly up to \$500 or more for each cow.

The integration and streamlining of this industry, with the continual development in the areas of fertilization and mechanization are reducing the bottom costs and some of the risks.

What is happening in Amarillo and its environs, such as here, is radically changing an industry and bringing this part of agriculture right into line with the advanced of modern technological industries.

At the auctions they are bought by some big beef pack-

Frank V

## Business Diary in Europe: A Rosé look at the future

While most of the port shippers in Britain are keeping their heads down until the Portuguese make up their minds what kind of government they want, Fernando Guedes has just been in London, willing to talk to anybody who cared to listen.

Guedes is head of Sogrape, a family owned wine maker, whose leading product is Mateus Rosé, which for more than a decade has claimed to be the world's largest-selling imported branded table wine.

He was in London together with nephew Luis, who is responsible for marketing Aveleda, Sogrape's vinho verde, to launch a £250,000 advertising campaign on behalf of the wine.

Asked what it was like back in Portugal, Guedes said: "You probably know more than I do. I listen to the BBC at 11 o'clock whenever I can, but my own papers and television are controlled."

"They only say what is convenient, rather than what would be interesting to the population to know."

He remained essentially optimistic, saying: "My people are wise enough not to ruin their country."

Guedes is now waiting for this or some other administration to complete a review of the system under which export-based Portuguese companies may call upon government assistance to help with items like Mateus's new United Kingdom advertising campaign, only the third in the 20 or so years the brand has been marketed here.



Fernando Guedes: my people are wise enough not to ruin their country.

list photographic studies of muslim-clad ladies lingering over their wine in restaurants. The new style, evolved by photographer James Wedge, is based upon pictures not of models but of actors, of whom prints are taken and later hand-coloured by Wedge after the style of pre-war picture albums.

Sogrape, in common with other wine makers, had a bumper vintage last year and is having to work overtime on this year's—all at a time when demand is depressed.

### Oldest bank

For the first time in five centuries, what is said to be the world's oldest bank is coming to London to hold a board meeting. The members of the "Deputazione Amministrativa" or governing body of Monte dei Paschi di Siena, will gather on

Monday to hear a report on international activities by the general manager, Giovanni Cresti.

The Siennese bankers of the Middle Ages had frequent contacts with England and were among those who lent money to the English Crown. I think something is still owing," an executive of Monte dei Paschi said with a smile, "but we are not coming to collect it."

The board will be looking further afield and is expected to approve a decision to open representative offices in New York, Moscow, Singapore and Sao Paulo, Brazil. The appointment of new secretary-general is also understood to be on the agenda.

Board meetings normally take place in the splendour of Salimbeni Castle, its headquarters in the medieval centre of Siena.

The decision to meet in London, where Monte dei Paschi has had a representative office since 1970, was taken because the bank still considers the City to be the financial capital of the modern world.

It reflects the international outlook of Cresti, who has been general manager since the spring. Aged 53, he has worked his way up through the Monte and its affiliate Banca Toscana since the age of 18 and the first Siennese to become the Provider—or perhaps superintendant—is a more accurate translation—for several centuries.

Thicker and faster they come—European insurance groups to London. Hard on the heels of

the news that a Swedish mutual insurance group, Sveriges Allförsäkrings AB, is trying to poach a bit of the London marine market comes a move by Germany's second biggest insurance group, Colonia Versicherung, to get a slice of the London action.

Among the London insurance community rumour has it, moreover, that Colonia's move is the prelude to what might be a big influx of German insurers into the London market. There is a short and long-term strategy behind this.

First, the German insurance companies, taking a leaf out of the book of the emigrant German banks, are moving abroad to hold the hands of the multinational German manufacturing companies. Allianz, Germany's biggest insurer, has yet to do this, though Gerling, the third biggest group, pioneered the trend and already has an office in the City.

More important in the long term is the fact that German insurers are moving overseas for their domestic market, hemmed in by all sorts of national restrictions, is too small for future growth and that if they want to enter the big international league they must do it via London.

Colonia (controlled by the Oppenheim private merchant banking empire in Germany) is making its London debut through a link with Sphere Drake (Underwriting) part of the Alexander Howden group. Underwrites most insurance risks for an international pool of insurers. The move suits both sides, though.

As Kenneth Grob, chairman of Alexander Howden, put it:

"We want their money and they want our expertise." It's nice to know that it's a case of London liberating allies in this case.

Hi-fi sally

Audiotronics Holdings, the British company which now claims to be Europe's biggest retailer of hi-fi equipment, announced their first sally into Europe the weekend.

Derek Smith, Audiotronics' managing director, said that his company had bought a 49 per cent stake in Radio Technics Bureau Allwage BV, a Netherlands family company based in Delft, with a hi-fi mail order business and five shops in Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Haarlem.

Smith said in London that Allwage had now reached the stage where it wanted to expand, both in the Dutch market and then possibly into Belgium and France, but could use Audiotronics' management experience as well as the company's ability to provide Audiotronics and Eagle brands cheaper than the equivalent Dutch article.

Audiotronics, formed out of the merger three years ago of Laskys Holdings and Barnett Factors, sees the deal both as a way into Europe and out of the United Kingdom, where a late Christmas buying season and sales up to a fifth lower than last year are expected. The Netherlands, on the other hand, has now plumped for inflation, and is seen by Audiotronics as a sounder market closer to those of the United Kingdom than any other Continental nation.

Christopher Wilkins

## Parker Knoll Limited

### Record Profit—Strong Liquidity

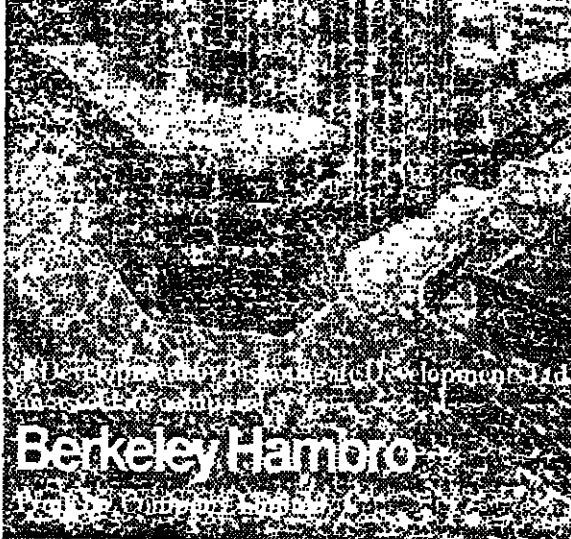
12 months to 31st July	1975	1974	1973
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Group sales	12,592	9,708	8,188
Profit before tax	1,169	1,008	1,033
Profit after tax	560	531	570
Earnings per 25p share	12.4p	11.8p	12.9p
Dividend payments per share	2.627p	2.462p	2.450p

Points made by the Chairman, Mr. C. H. Jourdan

- ★ Furniture turnover up by 29%.
- ★ Textile turnover up by 26%.
- ★ Record exports at £12 million.
- ★ Strong order book.



## Further drop in requests for regional cash aids



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 The Quality of Development

### Gwent pit closing

The 270 men at the Glyn-tillery Colliery Gwent, will be offered jobs at neighbouring collieries within a 10-mile radius when the pit closes on January 2, the Coal Board announced yesterday.



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Gold price doubts on the eve of quarterly output figures

Little comfort can be expected from the quarterly production figures from the South African gold mines this week. Substantial rises in labour costs following the latest wages agreement and the general rise in working costs will be reflected in the price of gold.

But the pessimism will be more about what the figures pre-date than what they actually show. For the dramatic fall in the price of gold following the International Monetary Fund's decision to allow the sale of large amounts of gold and the holding back of gold sales by the South African government will not show through until the December quarter figures are released.

By that time, of course, the mines will be getting the benefit of rapid devaluation, since they will still be paid in United States dollars. Against this has to be offset imported inflation through devaluation due to the

large requirements for external capital goods and the fact that foreign shareholders will be getting dividends in devalued rands.

More importantly, the short-term outlook for the gold price is not good, with one leading broker suggesting that it will move within a range of US\$120 to US\$150 an ounce.

The South African Reserve Bank appears to have off-loaded funds away from the world price even further.

However, there was a strong belief in London last week that not all the withheld gold, which has been sold for 20 per cent over three weeks, found its way on to the free market but that some of it was used to meet labour contracts with Mozambique.

The production of the quarterly figures is something of an inexact science since it is never possible to be precise in a short period as to how much gold has been recovered from the

## Mining

amount of ore mined. Additionally there are human errors.

Therefore while the figures can give a good guide to the nature of things they should not be treated as gospel truth. But given these constraints, it will be possible to see how various mines have been able to adapt to the sliding gold price.

An important factor will be the number of mines which have recently been forced into the State Reserve Scheme. Marginal and unprofitable mines can seek a state subsidy to stay in business.

This is not, however, a one-way flow of funds, for once the scheme a mine has to buy its way out so that when the gold price again begins to swing up, a mine, if it opts out

of the scheme, will not find life so easy until it has paid back the subsidy.

If the result turns out to be bearish—and it has to be remembered that there have been a drop of at least \$10 an ounce on the average price compared with the previous quarter—then the mines that are in the scheme will be the low-cost producers.

These are the Union Corporation's Winkelsbaak, Anglo-American's Free State Gold and Western Holdings, Barlow Rand's Blyvoor and Gold Fields' West Driefontein. These will at least give good yields at low gold prices.

For the bulls on the development of gold, the gearing factor of the high cost mines such as Durban Deep, East Rand Proprietary and Free State Saispaass have their attractions.

## Gold Fields earnings

This week will also see the

publication of the final figures for the year to the end of June of Consolidated Gold Fields, which last year drew some 28 per cent of its revenue from gold.

At the time of its 11 for 100 rights issue in March, the group predicted that results for the year may not differ materially from those for the previous year.

The London brokers, Fielding, Newton-Smith, suggest that net attributable profit will increase from £34.2m to between £36m and £37m, although earnings per share will consequently drop from 32.1p to something in excess of 30p based on the expanded capital base.

This is not, however, a universal view, with one broker suggesting that the earnings per share would be as low as 28p.

Desmond Quigley

## Developed world not expected respond favourably to indexat

## Commodities

Examining the vexed question of indexation, the automatic linking of unit prices of manufactured imports from developed countries and unit prices of exports from developing countries, The Economist Intelligence Unit sees the chances, in purely political terms, of a favourable response from a developed world as being "virtually nil", in the sense that there is going to be no early and full linkage between the prices of commodities and manufactures.

In its analytical survey, World Commodity Outlook 1975-76, just published, the Unit says there is no reason in logic or morals why there should be such a linkage and it does not necessarily follow that such a linkage is the best way of narrowing the gap between rich and poor nations.

"One objection to it which stands out immediately is that in order to effect a transfer of resources to countries such as Zambia or Indonesia or Malaysia or Peru one would have at the same time to confer enormous benefits on the metal producers of the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union and Australia."

"The consuming countries might well feel that there were more effective means of raising living standards in the developing world. But the main point is that Western governments—and Communist governments too for that matter—are being faced with a political demand for a transfer of resources which has to be met, if at all, by a willing political response."

"Among a majority of major consuming countries, that response would have to be justified, not once but on a continuing basis, to the electorate. From some countries there has been such willingness in the past to pay above the market price. The United States, the United Kingdom and the USSR have all for long periods been prepared to pay more for sugar than the market price."

"But the USSR only did so for political reasons, because Cuba's economy had been based on the United States, doing so largely in the interests of domestic producers. What is now requested of them, along with others, is that without any such compelling motives they should exercise on a vast scale since a system of administered above-market commodity prices would have to include most commodities."

Saying that the idea has already had a cool reception from the developed Commonwealth countries and that the recent international conference, the survey adds that irrespective of its possible defects, the primary producers' demand is quite simply too new for there to be any substantial proportion within elites, let alone electorates, prepared to say "yes, this is both right and in our long-term interests."

"The extreme difficulty that governments in the developed countries have had in getting their aid programmes up to 1 per cent of the GNP suggests that any such convinced pressure group would have a very hard task indeed in gaining governmental acceptance of commodity price linkage."

"Virtually the only circumstances in which acceptance would be forthcoming would be those in which the governments saw that primary producers had the economic means to pay for the price by cartel action, and calculated that they could moderate the increase by cooperating in its administration."

## The outlook for metals

The following are extracts from forecasts in the survey about metals:

"The effort of stocks and the ability of most of the world to come back to full production fairly quickly (although at different times as prices rise) through the range of refining production costs) will be to slow the rise in prices. Predictions of a £2,000 per ton wire bar being traded on the London Nickel

## Guinness Peat

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report by Lord Kinnaird, Chairman of Guinness Peat, is a general context of

In fact far from group came through year in the trading fields, without

Wallace

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## Euromarkets

The proposal by the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives to back the abolition of the American withholding tax seems likely to raise all over again those questions about the future of the Eurobond market, which were sparked off last year by the removal of the interest equalization tax.

The tax entails the withholding of part of the interest payable to foreigners who hold American securities. In a report to the New York Stock Exchange in February last year, the American Advisory Committee on International Capital Markets noted that the abolition of the tax would discourage "a natural flow of portfolio investments into this country by limiting the net return to foreigners."

It argued that elimination of the tax would encourage the flows of foreign long-term capital into the United States and "would play an important role in reestablishing the United States as the premier international financial market, by making United States investments more competitive with those of the Eurodollar and Eurobond markets."

The committee estimated that removal of the tax could in-

crease foreign demand for American shares by 10 or 15 per cent.

The American bond market has one particularly powerful attraction, which is holding back funds away from the Eurobond market, and that is the ease with which it is possible to deal in large lines of stock.

Marketability in Eurobonds is now much better than it has been, but the lesson of 1974 was that in a persistent bear phase it can be virtually impossible to deal in any volume.

For this reason if no other, one might expect to see a Eurobond of an American company trading at a significant yield premium to its domestic equivalent once withholding tax is removed.

At some points during the summer Eurobonds have been in a unusually position of yielding less than their American counterparts, which seems almost inconceivable once the tax has gone.

So the establishment of a more clearly defined differential in the market seems likely to be the first result.

Indeed, on the same principle the whole market yield structure could be forced higher if there is a massive flight of investment into the United States. The undoubted implication is that American interest rate levels will exert even more influence over Eurobond prices.

Christopher Wilkins

## Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

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## Freight report

Tanker rates continued to tumble downwards again last week so much so that shipbrokers said that there was a possibility of the freight markets slipping back to the depths plumbed last spring.

Although a weakening of the market has been considered inevitable since the Opec meeting, brokers had hoped that the onset of winter, the early absorption of the price increases, and a continuation of the stronger demand pattern over the summer months would combine to stabilize rates fairly quickly. However, the total absence of vice chartering for two weeks now and minimal activity elsewhere has shattered these hopes.

Chartering in the past seven days saw only 80,000-ton tankers fixed in the Persian Gulf to Europe trade with rates slipping back to Worldscale 25 (\$3.68 per ton) at the larger end of the scale. And with a score of vessels looking for Persian Gulf employment over the next six weeks their rates are now at a maximum Worldscale 20 (\$2.94) and a possible Worldscale 15 (\$2.20).

Craig Howard

## Unit Trust Prices-change on the week

## Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

Latest Price Prev Week

Alli & Wilson 7% Deb 57.5 58.1

Alli & Wilson 8% Deb 51.5 51.1

Alli & Wilson 9% Deb 47.5 47.1

Alli & Wilson 10% Deb 43.5 43.1

Alli & Wilson 11% Deb 39.5 39.1

Alli & Wilson 12% Deb 35.5 35.1

Alli & Wilson 13% Deb 31.5 31.1

Alli & Wilson 14% Deb 27.5 27.1

Alli & Wilson 15% Deb 23.5 23.1

Alli & Wilson 16% Deb 19.5 19.1

Alli & Wilson 17% Deb 15.5 15.1

Alli & Wilson 18% Deb 11.5 11.1

Alli & Wilson 19% Deb 7.5 7.1

Alli & Wilson 20% Deb 3.5 3.1

Alli & Wilson 21% Deb 0.5 0.1

Alli & Wilson 22% Deb 0.5 0.1

Alli & Wilson 23% Deb 0.5 0.1

Alli & Wilson 24% Deb 0.5 0.1

Alli & Wilson 25% Deb 0.5 0.1

Alli & Wilson 26% Deb 0.5 0.1

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Alli & Wilson 58% Deb 0.5 0.1

Alli & Wilson 59% Deb 0.5 0.1

Alli & Wilson 60% Deb 0.5 0.1

## Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank 11%

C. Hoare & Co 11%

Lloyds Bank 11%

Midland Bank 11%

Nat Westminster 11%

Shenley Trust 12%

20th Century Bank 11%















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with the printed word. Newspapers get into difficulties but some people read them anyway. Panorama looks at the problems of adult illiterates (3.10). Another programme records the recent trials of The Observer (4.50). Ronnie Barker joins John Cleese to instruct us on salemanship (7.5). Jewish humour genially presented fills an undemanding half hour (8.10). The Sweeney can sometimes be too clever by half for crime fans, though his writer promises well (ITV 9.0). The cops and robbers, however, are always located in The Streets of San Francisco (ITV 11.0).—L.B.

## BBC 2

7.05 am, Open University: Instrumentation in Train Development. 7.20-7.55, Participate or Else? 7.10-9.00, Play School. 11.00 am, 1.30 pm, 3.00 pm, The National Health. 3.30-3.55, Homes from Home, part 1: Caring for the Physically Handicapped. 5.00 pm, Open University: King Lear. 5.25, Statistics. 5.50, Solids, Liquids and Gases. 6.15, Porcelain. 6.40, Fourteen Maths. 7.05, The Selling Line. 7.30, Newsday. 8.10, The Watsons. 9.00, Madame Bovary, part 4: Judgment. 9.50, Crisis at "The Observer", document. 11.10, News. 11.25-11.30, Robert Hardy reads The Horses, by Ted Hughes.

## Granada

7.00 am, News. 7.20 pm, This Is Your Radio. 1.30, Thames. 2.00, Film: Jimmy Hanley, Paula Clark in Don't Ever Leave Me. 3.25, Thames. 5.20, Supersonic. 5.50, News. 6.00, Granada Reports. 6.40, Thames. 10.30, Soundings Brass. 11.00, Granada's Gorillas. 11.55-12.35 am, The Nature of Things.

## Tyne Tees

12.00, Thames. 12.30 am, Here Comes the Future. 1.00, News. 1.30, The Tyler Moore Show. 2.00, House Call. 2.30, Film: The Landlord. 3.11, John Peel. 3.40, F.R. 3.55, Thames. 5.20, Eyewitness. 6.00, Police Call. 6.45, Thames. 7.30, Access. 8.00, Shunt. 8.10, Union. 11.05, The Invasion Snooker. 11.35, Epilogue.

## Ulster

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, Ulster News Headlines. 1.30, Thames. 1.50, News. 2.30, Film: Gasabo. With the Croy Guy. 3.00, News. 3.30, The Younger. 4.00, News. 4.30, Your Father Girl. 5.00, News. 5.30, The Younger. 6.00, News. 6.30, The Younger. 7.00, News. 7.30, The Younger. 8.00, News. 8.30, The Younger. 9.00, News. 9.30, The Younger. 10.00, News. 10.30, The Younger. 11.00, News. 11.30, The Younger. 12.00, News. 12.30, The Younger.

## Westward

12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, John Peel. 1.00, News. 1.30, Thames. 2.00, News. 2.30, Film: The Younger. 3.00, News. 3.30, The Younger. 4.00, News. 4.30, The Younger. 5.00, News. 5.30, The Younger. 6.00, News. 6.30, The Younger. 7.00, News. 7.30, The Younger. 8.00, News. 8.30, The Younger. 9.00, News. 9.30, The Younger. 10.00, News. 10.30, The Younger. 11.00, News. 11.30, The Younger. 12.00, News. 12.30, The Younger.

## Thames

12.00, Noddy. 12.10 pm, Rain. 12.30, Mum's the Word. 1.00, News. 1.20, Lunchtime. 1.30, News. 1.50, News. 2.00, Good Afternoon. 2.30, Film: Brushfire, with John Leach, Everett Sloane. Jo Morrell. 3.00, General Hospital. 3.30, Clapperboard. 4.55, Boggs' Back. 5.20, And Mother Makes Five. 5.55, News. 6.00, Today. 6.45, Opportunity Knocks! 7.30, Coronation Street. 8.00, My Son Reuben. 8.30, World in action. 9.00, The Swinner. 10.00, News. 10.30, Seven Ages of Fashion. 11.00, The Streets of San Francisco. 11.55, Why? with David Hobbrook. \* Black and white.

## Grampian

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, Grampian News Headlines. 1.30, News. 2.30, Film: Home Road, with Peggy Ashcroft. 3.00, News. 3.30, Thames. 4.00, Grampian Today. 4.30, News. 5.00, News. 5.30, News. 6.00, News. 6.30, News. 7.00, News. 7.30, News. 8.00, News. 8.30, News. 9.00, News. 9.30, News. 10.00, News. 10.30, News. 11.00, News. 11.30, News. 12.00, News. 12.30, News.

## Radio

1.00 am, News. Simon Bates. 1.30, News. 2.00, News. 2.30, News. 3.00, News. 3.30, News. 4.00, News. 4.30, News. 5.00, News. 5.30, News. 6.00, News. 6.30, News. 7.00, News. 7.30, News. 8.00, News. 8.30, News. 9.00, News. 9.30, News. 10.00, News. 10.30, News. 11.00, News. 11.30, News. 12.00, News. 12.30, News.

## ATV

12.00, Thames. 12.30 pm, Out of Town. 1.00, News. 1.20, ATV News. 1.30, News. 2.30, Film. 3.00, News. 3.30, News. 4.00, News. 4.30, News. 5.00, News. 5.30, News. 6.00, News. 6.30, News. 7.00, News. 7.30, News. 8.00, News. 8.30, News. 9.00, News. 9.30, News. 10.00, News. 10.30, News. 11.00, News. 11.30, News. 12.00, News. 12.30, News.

## Southern

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, Southern News. 1.30, News. 2.00, News. 2.30, News. 3.00, News. 3.30, News. 4.00, News. 4.30, News. 5.00, News. 5.30, News. 6.00, News. 6.30, News. 7.00, News. 7.30, News. 8.00, News. 8.30, News. 9.00, News. 9.30, News. 10.00, News. 10.30, News. 11.00, News. 11.30, News. 12.00, News. 12.30, News.

## Anglia

12.00, Thames. 1.25 pm, Anglia News. 1.30, News. 2.00, News. 2.30, News. 3.00, News. 3.30, News. 4.00, News. 4.30, News. 5.00, News. 5.30, News. 6.00, News. 6.30, News. 7.00, News. 7.30, News. 8.00, News. 8.30, News. 9.00, News. 9.30, News. 10.00, News. 10.30, News. 11.00, News. 11.30, News. 12.00, News. 12.30, News.

## Plve. 7.30, Historic Performances

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## 4.00 am, News. 8.22, Farming

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, 4.00 am, News. 8.22, Farming. 1.30, News. 2.00, News. 2.30, News. 3.00, News. 3.30, News. 4.00, News. 4.30, News. 5.00, News. 5.30, News. 6.00, News. 6.30, News. 7.00, News. 7.30, News. 8.00, News. 8.30, News. 9.00, News. 9.30, News. 10.00, News. 10.30, News. 11.00, News. 11.30, News. 12.00, News. 12.30, News.

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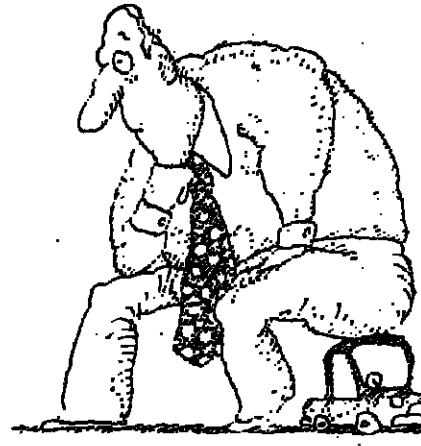
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## HOME NEWS

## Education cuts mean crowded classrooms and fewer teachers, survey says

By Tim Devlin  
Education Correspondent

Schools and colleges are about to face their bitterest winter, Mr. Cyril Pyle, chairman of the Council for Educational Advance, said yesterday.

He told a press conference in London that local authorities all over the country were considering contingency plans which would mean more crowded classrooms, fewer teachers, skimpier resources and deteriorating classroom conditions.

The council, which is an independent organisation, claims to be leading a massive movement against further cuts in the education service and to be the natural umbrella organisation for trade unions, teachers, parents and members of all political parties concerned about the economic squeeze on education.

A survey by the council of some 100 local authorities responses to a questionnaire circular requesting no increase in education budgets next year was published yesterday. It showed that:

Buckinghamshire is contemplating a cut of £5m in its education budget of £65m. If approved by the county council, it has been estimated by the National Union of Teachers that one teacher out of four might be "threatened" with dismissal.

Devon County Council is considering saving £60,000 by substituting textured vegetable protein for meat in school meals.

Croydon Borough Council has discussed plans to cut £2m of a budget of £31m. This includes raising the pupil-teacher ratio in both secondary and primary schools. Instead of an average of 23 pupils to a teacher in primary schools, there would be 28.

Surrey County Council has dismissed 67 part-time music teachers, the survey says. Cambridge, Essex and Suffolk are using fewer post-graduate school leavers and more bread, rice, Yorkshire pudding and suet.

In Dudley, West Midlands, a new school for mentally handi-

capped children will probably stay empty for 18 months because the authority cannot afford to staff it. According to the survey, the authority is also considering reducing the size of its teaching force by 246.

Mr. Pyle, who is Headmaster of South East London Comprehensive School, said: "There is still time to prevent these plans becoming a reality. The local authorities are waiting to see what exactly their allocations will be for 1976-77 in the rate-support grant. Between now and next month, while the grant negotiations are going on, we must make it clear that we will not stand for education being cut back in this way."

A mass lobby of Parliament and a rally in Central Hall, Westminster, have been organized for next Tuesday by the council co-operating with the South East Regional Council of the TUC.

Mr. Henry Clothier, the council's secretary, said that local Councils for Educational Ad-

vance had been set up in Greater Manchester, Leicester, Brent and Gravesham. New councils were being set up in Oldham and Bristol. But there were also vigilante groups of parents watching out for cuts in education all over the country.

Teaching Inquiry: A £95,000 inquiry into mixed-ability teaching in schools is to be carried out by the independent but Government and local authority-financed National Foundation for Educational Research (the Press Association reports).

Mixing the bright and not-so-bright, instead of dividing them into rigid academic "streams", is one of today's main educational issues. The practice has greatly increased in recent years.

The foundation also disclosed yesterday the results of a national survey in which the head teachers of 1,000 comprehensive schools were asked about curricular. The survey shows that there are divided views about mixed-ability teaching, even in the first year.



Merle Park, the ballerina, in London yesterday with Mikhail Baryshnikov, the Russian dancer, who makes his debut with the Royal Ballet later this month in "Swan Lake" and "Romeo and Juliet".

## New contact reported with kidnap gang

From a Staff Reporter  
Dublin

After four days of silence there were signs last night of a breakthrough in attempts to re-new contacts with the militant republicans who kidnapped Dr. Tiede Herrema, the Dutch industrialist, in Limerick last Friday week.

They came in a short message from Father Donald O'Mahoney, the young Capuchin who is the central figure in the mediation between the gang and Herrema, the Dutch steel company. Speaking at his friary in Church Street, Dublin, under 24-hour surveillance by the Irish Special Branch, Father O'Mahoney said there had been developments in his efforts to reestablish contact with the kidnapers. He added guardedly, that he hoped to be in a position soon to form a basis for negotiations with them.

The long silences adopted by the kidnapers have been only one of many complications in a case imposing great difficulties for the Irish Government still without its Prime Minister, Mr. Cosgrave, who has been in Rome since last Tuesday and is not expected to return until the end of this week.

There has also been an increasing, if underlying, contradiction between the activities of the security forces, unremitting in their hunt for the kidnapers, and the mediating priests, renowned for their sympathies with the republican cause, who have been trying to open up lines of communication.

This morning the Irish Cabinet will meet in Dublin to review the situation and to reaffirm the inflexible attitude it has adopted to all political demands made by the kidnapers. Yesterday official spokesmen were at pains to dismiss speculation that there had been any softening in official attitudes.

In order to lessen the possibility of Special Branch interference, the code word adopted by the kidnapers is now in possession of friends at all seven Capuchin houses in the Republic.

One of the Capuchins, who forms part of the network, is Father Pearse O'Donoghue, who has kept close contact with the Provisional IRA, and in the 1950s served a prison sentence with Mr. David O'Connell, the former chief of the Provisional's army council.

## Accident verdict on MP's wife in road crash

From Our Correspondent  
Harrrogate

An Army officer who was killed with an MP's wife when his car crashed into a tree at Ripon, North Yorkshire, had the equivalent of seven and a half pints of beer in his system, it was said yesterday at an inquest at Knavesborough.

Verdicts of accidental death were returned on Mrs. Frances Hampson, aged 29, a former fashion model, of Pear Tree Cottage, Darley, Harrogate, the wife of Dr. Keith Hampson, Conservative MP for Ripon, and Captain Robert Brant, aged 29, of Plymouth, adjutant of 38 Engineer Regiment, based at Ripon.

The Hampsons had been married for less than four months when the crash happened on September 11 on the main Ripon to Harrogate road. Mrs. Hampson had been at a small social party in the officers' mess after helping with rehearsals for a fashion show.

Police Constable Anthony Coates said the pressure of the tyres on the captain's Jensen-Healey car were below the recommended figure.

## Engineering firms told to back pay policy

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Engineering employers have been advised by their politically influential trade organisation to abide by the TUC government-wide policy of 56 weeks no matter what pressure they come under from militant shop stewards.

The Engineering Employers' Federation has told large and small companies in Britain's most important exporting industry to stand by the Cabinet's counter-inflation policy despite private industry's antagonism towards the Wilson Administration.

The employers' advice, sent out as a circular to affiliated members of the federation, confirmed attitude of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, whose leaders sought TUC advice yesterday on the implementation of their national agreement with the employers and its relationship with the 56 limit.

In their advice to affiliated firms, the federation argues that it is in the interest of private companies to support the counter-inflation policy, and suggests that firms should not give more than the 56 limit, or break the rule confining pay rises to 12-month intervals.

The engineering industry is particularly prone to difficulties in interpretation of the counter-inflation pay policy because, under a long-term agreement,

engineering workers' basic rates are due to be increased by £4 a week for skilled workers next month, and by a further £2 next February. The employers have been advised to stick to the deal as a commitment that cannot be varied with impunity by firms seeking to ease their wages difficulties on a domestic basis.

The federation accepts that a clash is likely early next year over the implementation of the industrywide basic rate agreement, which adds an overall £6 to the skilled rate, and plant demands for the full £6 to be given to all workers, as the TUC has proposed as an entitlement in the present bargaining season.

Against the background of the agreement over the impact of the wages policy, which the engineering workers opposed at the Trades Union Congress last month, the federation said that the agreement with the employers and its relationship with the 56 limit.

The federation is to go ahead with implementing the agreement of last May, which gives a 56, two-stage increase on basic rates, but it has advised individual employers in the industry to offset any domestic (or plant) bargaining against the figure, particularly in February, when the second stage £2 minimum rate increase comes into operation.

## Belfast man says police threatened his mother

From Christopher Walker  
Dublin

After the recent political upheavals in Northern Ireland, the first formal attempts to bring about a new realignment within the once united "loyalist" coalition will take place at Stormont today.

The meeting was originally scheduled for Thursday, but has been brought forward in an effort to stabilize the confusion and disarray left inside loyalist ranks by the weekend dismemberment of the Vanguard Party and the resignation of nine out of its 13 Convention members.

Today's full meeting of the coalition will demonstrate clearly the bitter personality clash between Mr. William Craig and the Rev. Ian Paisley over their conflicting views on the desirability of allowing Roman Catholic politicians temporary places in an emergency government.

Mr. Paisley has indicated that he will seek the expulsion of Mr. Craig and his three remaining Vanguard supporters from the United Ulster Unionist Coalition. Moves in that direction, although likely to command majority support, will be strongly resisted by Mr. Craig, who will argue that he now has an overwhelming vote of confidence from his rank and file.

Explaining the situation yesterday, a Vanguard spokesman contended that differences in involved strategy and not principle. "We will totally oppose

## Ulster 'loyalists' will try to close the ranks

From Christopher Walker  
Dublin

any attempt to have us expelled", he added. "As far as we are concerned, we are still members of the UUCU, and we will support its constitutional proposals inside the Convention."

In reality, Mr. Craig has taken a tactical decision to postpone launching his province-wide campaign in favour of further talks with the Social Democratic and Labour Party until the Convention's final report has gone to Westminster. He is convinced it will soon come back for reconsideration, when he will then launch a full-scale attempt to convert the majority of Protestant voters to his point of view.

Meanwhile the former members of Vanguard met yesterday to resolve their new

position, which for the moment remains technically outside the coalition. It is understood that at present they will remain an independent group, although they have received private invitations to join both the official and the Democratic Unionists.

Resigned to facing considerable acrimony from his former allies, Mr. Craig is now looking towards what is described as "the convention stage 2".

Yesterday Mr. Brian Faulkner, leader of the moderate Unionist Party of Northern Ireland described the Vanguard leader's position as similar to his own in 1973, when he accepted the SDLP and was convinced that they were prepared to accept the constitutional position of Northern Ireland.

Lord Provost of Dundee, was fined £20 last night after being found guilty of assaulting a van salesman.

Dundee Sheriff Court was told that the salesman, Mr. Douglas, Byres, and Mr. Farquhar went to Camperdown golf club, Dundee, on July 19. Mr. Byres had taken part in an open competition and Mr. Farquhar was there to present prizes.

Mr. Byres said he had had four or five pints of beer and the equivalent number of rums. He spoke to Mr. Farquhar in the bar about the £10 attendance allowance for councillors and agreed that he was "going on and on" about the subject. Mr. Farquhar had tried to explain the matter to him.

At the end of the evening he went outside to get some fresh air and to see if he was being

given a lift home in the official car. The Lord Provost came out behind him.

Mr. Byres said Mr. Farquhar pushed him and then started bawling him on the face. After that all he could remember was lying on the ground and being kicked.

It was stated that Mr. Byres suffered a broken rib and a cut to his mouth and lower face, which required stitches.

Mr. Farquhar said that Mr. Byres approached him soon after he arrived and talked about councillors' attendance allowances. He seemed to have a "bee in his bonnet" about the subject.

As they were leaving, Mr. Byres grabbed his little finger and bent it backwards. The next thing he knew, Mr. Byres grabbed him by the testicles and poked at his groin. Mr. Farquhar said he struggled to get free and hit Mr. Byres two or three times.

Mr. Byres was given a lift home in the official car.

## Lord provost fined £20 for assault at golf club

Charles Farquhar, Lord Provost of Dundee, was fined £20 last night after being found guilty of assaulting a van salesman.

## Driver praised for bus emergency action

A bus driver, Mr. Kenneth Greenslade, stopped his single-deck vehicle as it plunged out of control down a steep hill by deliberately crashing into a wall, after warning his passengers, many of them children, to lie on the floor, an Exeter court was told yesterday. He admitted using a vehicle with inefficient brakes, but instead of a fine he was given an absolute discharge.

## Driver praised for bus emergency action

Mr. John Way, chairman of the bench told him, "Your action saved the lives of passengers."

## Support for Mikardo view on pay limit

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Staff

The Tribune group of left-wing Labour MPs last night sided with Mr. Mikardo in the dispute he had during the Labour Party conference with Mr. Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Mr. Mikardo MP for Tower Hamlet, Bethnal Green and Bow, and member of the Labour Party national executive, provoked a storm at a Tribune meeting in Blackpool by suggesting that trade union leaders had given into government pressure by accepting the 56-week wage limit and getting little in return.

Mr. Jones bitterly rejected such an allegation, but last night the Tribune group of MPs accepted the analysis of Mr. Mikardo. Some of those present suggested that Mr. Jones had isolated himself from the mainstream of trade union thinking. But not all shared that view.

## Support for Mikardo view on pay limit

Mr. Martin Flannery (Sheffield Hillsborough) said that although he agreed with Mr. Mikardo, it was important that the lines of communication between the left and the trade union movement should not be broken.

## Support for Mikardo view on pay limit

Mr. Sidney Bidwell (Ealing, Southall), chairman of the Tribune group, said later that the general view of the meeting was that Mr. Jones was wrong. Mr. Mikardo had said what most of the Tribune group felt.

## Ambulancemen agree to demand full £6 increase

By Our Labour Staff

Britain's 14,000 ambulancemen are to demand the full £6 allowed under the Government TUC pay policy. A conference of 25 of their leaders voted unanimously in London yesterday to claim "not a penny less."

The ambulancemen, members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, will meet the ambulancemen's Whitley Council of the National Health Service on October 21.

Mr. Eric Smith, chairman of the National Ambulancemen's Council, said: "We are the first direct employees of the Government to enter negotiations under the 56 policy. If they refuse the full amount we shall have to decide what to do."

The agreement, in November last year, gave a maximum award of £7.70 a week.

## Ambulancemen agree to demand full £6 increase

Yesterday's conference of the ambulancemen's leaders was told by Mr. Jack Ashley, MP, chairman of the all-party parliamentary disability group, that failure by companies to employ disabled people was a national scandal.

## Remand in siege case

Franklin Davis, aged 28, was remanded in custody until Friday at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, yesterday, in connection with the Spaghetti House siege in Knightsbridge. He was accused of assault with intent to rob and of detaining eight people against their will.

## Poll on coursing

A survey by the League Against Cruel Sports shows that 47 per cent of the electorate want the Bill to ban live hare coursing made law now.

## Man jailed for deceit over intercourse

From Our Correspondent  
London

Peter Emmett, aged 24, married with two children, was found guilty at Leeds Crown Court yesterday of obtaining sexual intercourse by deception and was sent to jail for a total of 15 months.

After a three-day trial, Mr. Emmett, of Knaresborough Road, Harrogate, was convicted of the sexual deception and of the theft of £150 worth of hair-dressing equipment. He admitted four further offences of obtaining property by deception and asked for 13 other offences to be considered.

Mr. Emmett, a former salesman who tricked a Leeds hairdresser, Miss Denise Varley, aged 24, into sexual intercourse, was told by Mr. Justice Cantley, who described the offence as unusual, that he was manifestly a fool and a convicted one.

During a five-month campaign of lies and deception Mr. Emmett was said to have told Miss Varley he was single and intended to marry her. The court was told that he even asked Miss Varley's father for permission to marry her, attended a family engagement party, and organised a church wedding and a £300 hotel reception.

## Man jailed for deceit over intercourse

Thatcher invitation

Mrs Thatcher, the Leader of the Opposition, was invited yesterday to give a public demonstration of paperhanging and painting by Mr. Martin Joyce, secretary of the Guild of Master Craftsmen. Mrs Thatcher was photographed at the weekend decorating her new country flat.

## Weather forecast and recordings

across Ireland, Wales and SW England.

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## 2,000 jobs face axe in county emergency plan

From Our Correspondent  
Leamington Spa

Warwickshire County Council has prepared an emergency plan to combat inflation that would mean two thousand redundancies, the closure of 30 schools, and severe cutbacks in police, fire and social services. The plan, prepared by a team of chief officers, is designed to save £6m a year and is based on a 25 per cent increase in rates next year.

To reduce spending, the team has produced a priority list of 142 economy measures, starting with savings on office expenditure and advertising, and including measures of schools and old people's homes and the virtual scrapping of adult education. Parents would be asked to contribute to school finance.

The Conservative-controlled council estimates that if the worst happens and the plan has to be introduced, it will cut staff by one eighth and spending by a tenth.

## Mr Stonehouse says only the date has to be settled on Commons statement

Continued from page 1

would be the day and there could be no amendment, even by two days, to enable me to get to the House to make a statement.

"It did appear that while the committee proceedings were going on, and who knows how long they could take, I would not be able to come to the House at a proper time and make the statement. I made a vigorous protest about this when the day was first fixed and I frankly was not very optimistic about persuading the court to change its findings.

"But since I wrote to Mr. Speaker the atmosphere has changed. I have said a lot of things to Mr. Speaker which I am not in a position to reveal, but I am able to refer to paragraph 99 of the select committee [report] of 1967 [on parliamentary privilege] which refers to the position of MPs involved in either civil or criminal process."

Mr. Stonehouse summarized one finding of the select committee. It said it was conscious that the requirements of both civil and criminal process might conflict with the duty of a member to attend at the House. The select committee was strongly of the opinion when fixing dates or granting bail that the courts should give appropriate weight to the importance of any MP who might be involved.

Mr. Stonehouse said he did

not draw one fact to the attention of the Speaker; that Mr. Samuel Silkin, the Attorney General, was a leading member of that select committee, and indeed chaired it on many occasions. That was extremely significant, he thought, in view of the fact that Mr. Silkin was responsible for the present prosecution.

Mr. Stonehouse continued: "However, the situation in the court today was remarkably changed from past court appearances because the magistrate without any hesitation conceded the point: the court proceedings could in no way interfere with my responsibilities to attend the House, and the court even arranged to adjourn early today so that I could come here this afternoon, and the magistrate is agreeable to adjourn whenever I need to attend the House."

"Certainly he will raise no objection that I make my statement in the House, so that restriction is removed. I am therefore most grateful to Mr. Speaker for his reception of my communication."

Mr. Stonehouse's meeting with the Speaker lasted 40 minutes. The MP said it was now only a matter of arranging a suitable date for the statement, but first he would have to consider the kind of text that would be appropriate. He was convinced that it would not breach the sub-judice rule.

Before he went into the Chamber, Mr. Stonehouse tabled a series of parliamentary questions, one of which concerns a prisoner in Wormwood Scrubs, an American, Nathan

Greenberg, who he said had written to him stating that he was being forcibly fed. He had written because he had noticed that Mr. Stonehouse was taking an interest in the treatment of prisoners.

Another question, tabled to the Home Secretary, was an explanation of why a letter written to Mr. Stonehouse in Brixton prison by the Birmingham Mail, concerning his constituency, was intercepted by the governor and not shown to him.

Mr. Stonehouse says he was never told that the communication had been received at the prison or that it had been returned to the Birmingham newspaper undelivered.

Mr. Stonehouse will argue that that action was an intrusion into the rights of the press or constituents to communicate with MPs on constituency matters. He regards it as an important issue.

Today he intends to put down another question asking how much other MPs' replacements to the senders when he was in Brixton. Mr. Stonehouse is telling his friends that when the full story emerges about his case it will be seen as a political one.

He was not in a position, he said, to reveal all the background and detail. It would emerge in the course of the evidence given in court.

One complaint made by Mr. Stonehouse yesterday was that his office at the House where he used to do his constituency work has been reallocated to another member. It was explained to him that that was one when it appeared that Mr. Stonehouse had vanished, and was believed to have drowned.

New charges, page 4

## Two killed at shipyard

Two men employed at a Cade shipbuilding yard at Port Glasgow were killed yesterday. They were working on an asbestos roof when they fell 40ft.

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